

Spadolini leaves after visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini left Amman on Wednesday at the end of a one-day visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with senior government officials. Mr. Spadolini was seen off at the airport by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers as well as Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi. Major-General Riccardo Bisognhero, the highest ranking military official, in Italy arrived in Amman on a visit to Jordan on Wednesday and held a meeting with Gen. Sharif Zaid at the Army Headquarters in the presence of the Italian ambassador and Lt. Gen. Abu Taleb. Gen. Bisognhero heard a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and duties and responsibilities it shoulders. The Italian general arrived in Amman on a visit expected to last several days during which he will meet with officials and tour the country's tourist and archaeological sites. Gen. Sharif Zaid and high-ranking army officers were at the airport to welcome the guest (See page 3).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Zia receives King's message

ISLAMABAD (Peta) — Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq on Wednesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message contained Jordanian proposals for promoting technological cooperation among Islamic nations. The message was delivered to President Zia in Islamabad by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, who is attending a conference on cooperation in scientific and technological cooperation among member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). The King's proposals were to be submitted to the conference, which opened here Wednesday morning. In an opening address to the conference, President Zia hailed King Hussein's efforts and those of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the establishment of the Islamic Academy of Sciences in Amman. Delegates from 30 nations are taking part in the four-day conference in Islamabad. Dr. Khatib is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference.

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Kanaan returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Planning Minister Taher Al Kanaan returned to Amman on Wednesday after attending a Muslim-Christian dialogue which was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Geneva on Monday, and a meeting with the Crown Prince held with Mr. Claude Cheysson, the European Community (EC) commissioner, on the recently-held Jordan Development Conference and possible EC contribution to Jordan's development plans for the East and West Banks.

Lebanon lodges complaint at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Lebanon on Wednesday complained to the United Nations over Israeli air attacks on Sunday and Monday against targets near Sidon and reserved the right to call for a Security Council meeting. In a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Lebanese U.N. Representative Rashid Fakhoury said six Israeli warplanes on Sunday and Monday raided the eastern and western outskirts of Sidon, wounding a number of people and causing serious material damage. Mr. Fakhoury said his government, in condemning these attacks and the violation of Lebanese air space, affirmed that Israel's persistence in its criminal attacks was a flagrant and continuing violation of the principles of international law and the U.N. Charter, and was aimed at inflaming the situation in southern Lebanon.

ILO urges Tunisia to free unionists

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) urged Tunisia on Wednesday to free two imprisoned workers' leaders and restore full trade union freedoms. Amnesties for Habib Achour, former head of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), and Moncef Ben Slimane, secretary general of the Union of Teachers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, would help reduce social tensions the ILO said. Both men were jailed earlier this year following a labour dispute with the government which began in 1985.

Kahane held after speech in U.S.

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas (AP) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the militant Jewish Defence League, was arrested after a scuffle during a speech in which he advocated ridding Israel and the occupied territories of Arabs, police said. Police arrested two members of the audience after the Tuesday night fight, and one of the two then filed a municipal charge of disorderly conduct against Kahane, a member of Israel's parliament. Kahane, on a U.S. speaking tour, said in his speech that the Jewish people had given Arabs housing, education — "all the good things." "But you took their land," Kahane said to the audience. "But you took their land." Kahane and the two audience members, both charged with disorderly conduct, were released without bond. Kahane was scheduled to appear in municipal court on Dec. 2.

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Rifai: U.S. explanations over arms supplies to Iran are unconvincing

American 'credibility damaged in Mideast'

By John Rice
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Wednesday he was shocked by U.S. arms shipments to Iran and warned they had harmed American credibility in the Middle East.

"It was a very shocking development and a regrettable one," Mr. Rifai told the AP in an interview. "The explanations that are given are not convincing and did a lot of damage to American credibility in the area," Mr. Rifai said.

In Mr. Rifai's comments were the first substantive reaction by a Jordanian official since President Ronald Reagan admitted last Thursday that he had secretly permitted small shipments of defensive weapons and spare parts to go to Iran despite a U.S. arms embargo.

Mr. Reagan denied reports that the arms were in trade for American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, saying they were intended to help improve relations with Iran.

"For whatever reason, it does not make sense as far as we're



Zaid Rifai

concerned," Mr. Rifai said. He said that the sale was "the exact opposite of the declared American policy... and it was certainly against our joint efforts with the United States to contact

all our friends and others to prevent arms from reaching Iran." But asked if the arms sale might hurt U.S.-Jordanian ties, he said: "We have good relations with the United States, the same as we do with many other countries in the world."

He said it was now "up to the United States to make a determined effort to limit the scope of the damage" caused by the shipments.

He said that might be "by following a more even-handed policy" between Israel and the Arab states.

Pro-Israeli lawmakers in Congress last year forced the Reagan administration to halt a planned \$1.9 billion arms sale to Jordan.

Mr. Rifai noted that some congressmen expressed fears that the weapons might fall into "terrorist" hands if they went to Jordan, while at the same time the United States was giving similar weapons to anti-government guerrillas in Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan.

In remarks to the British Broadcasting Corporation, before Mr. Reagan confirmed the arms shipment, His Majesty King

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Reagan hopes to quell row over Iran deals; Shultz said set to quit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan, on the defensive over his secret arms shipments to Iran, prepared on Wednesday to justify his action in public as speculation mounted that Secretary of State George Shultz would quit over the issue.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan would "tell the truth, put the facts out" during a nationally televised news conference, his first in more than three months.

The news conference was scheduled to begin at 0100 GMT Thursday.

The president said in an address to the American people last week that he had sent a small amount of defensive weapons and spare parts to Iran in a bid to improve long-term relations, to end the six-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, to eliminate state terrorism and to help free six American hostages from Lebanon.

The United States had declared its neutrality in the Gulf war, urged its allies not to provide arms to either side and launched a drive to seek international cooperation

in combating terrorism, including a staunch public commitment not to negotiate with terrorists.

Mr. Reagan has vehemently denied he paid ransom for the hostages but his denials have failed to convince Congress which will hold hearings later this week on the clandestine shipments.

Two public opinion polls have indicated Mr. Reagan's attempts to explain the affair are disbelieved by ordinary Americans.

But the White House said on Wednesday it had received a total of 3,147 telephone calls after his speech last Thursday and that 2,068 were positive.

Mr. Reagan told reporters this week he had no plans to fire anybody in the aftermath of the Iran episode but dissent among his top policy makers over the arms pipeline has brought persistent reports that Mr. Shultz eventually will resign.

National Public Radio (NPR) said Tuesday night Mr. Shultz had told the president he planned to resign but Mr. Reagan asked him

to remain in the top foreign policy post until the Iranian furor dies down.

It cited administration sources as saying the president would appoint retiring Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, Mr. Reagan's personal emissary to Manila in the final days of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' rule, as Mr. Shultz's successor within a couple of months.

A White House spokesman said the report was not true, a State Department spokesman said the secretary has not resigned and he was not aware of any plans to do so, and Mr. Laxalt said: "There is nothing to it."

Mr. Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who called the arms shipments absurd, were apparently frozen out of the operation.

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Petrovsky assails U.S. arms policy

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky on Wednesday attacked recent U.S. policy on arms shipments to Iran.

"The United States has taken a double standard approach to the situation in Iran," Mr. Petrovsky told a news conference.

Mr. Petrovsky, visiting the United Nations, called the recent U.S. shipments to Iran "a clandestine operation."

"Clandestine operations hinder political solutions. All of the Middle Eastern countries are interested in political solutions... the military approach is more preferred by this country (the United States) than the political solution," he said.

"This is contrary to the view that political thinking is the solution to all questions," Mr. Petrovsky added.

Asked to comment on the Soviet Union's own policy on arms shipments, Mr. Petrovsky said: "The Soviet Union has made no shipments to Iran... if we supply armaments, we do so with accords, with political agreements. We do not do it by clandestine operations."

Bonn says break with Syria will be short-sighted

BONN (Agencies) — West German Deputy Foreign Minister Juergen Moellmann said that it would be short-sighted and damaging to break diplomatic relations with Syria over its alleged complicity in international terrorism.

Mr. Moellmann was responding to speculation that Bonn might sever ties if the trial of two Arabs charged with bombing a German-Arab friendship society office in West Berlin last March yielded conclusive evidence of Syrian involvement.

"The breach of relations would be damaging and short-sighted," Mr. Moellmann told the newspaper Bild in an interview for Thursday's edition.

"For fundamental reasons, it is precisely when there are problems that one should use diplomatic channels."

Mr. Moellmann declined direct comment on the trial, which began on Monday, saying it would be wrong to prejudge the outcome.

But his remarks in Bild and in a similar interview with the Cologne newspaper Express marked the first public high-level indication that an official response to evidence of a Syrian hand in the attack would stop short of a

diplomatic breach.

One of the two men on trial in West Berlin, Ahmad Hasi, was quoted in what was described as his pre-trial testimony read to the court as saying that he picked up the suitcase bomb used in the March 29 attack from the kitchen of the Syrian embassy in East Berlin.

Syria has denied involvement in the bombing, which injured seven people, and in an alleged London attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner last April for which Hasi's brother Nezar Hindawi was sentenced to 45 years in jail by a British court.

Britain cut diplomatic ties with Syria following Hindawi's conviction last month and urged its European Community (EC) partners to adopt limited sanctions against Damascus.

The chairman of the West German parliament's foreign affairs committee, Hans Stercken, said in a radio interview on Wednesday that Bonn would have to follow Britain's example if the West Berlin trial showed Syria was involved.

But Mr. Moellmann said he believed more could be achieved by trying to get Syria to join Western countries in the fight against terrorism.

Residential areas hit in raging Beirut battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Explosions blasted residential areas of southern Beirut for more than an hour on Wednesday as Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters fought with mortars, rockets and artillery.

Local radio stations said mortar bombs hit crowded Shi'ite residential areas surrounding the Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp, in Beirut's southern outskirts.

The Voice of the Homeland radio said one man was killed and several injured in the firing, which closed the main highway linking the city and its airport.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said scores of artillery shells slammed into the alleys of the camp for more than one hour.

Police said 38 people were wounded in the mortar and machine gun clashes between Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal militiamen and rival Palestinian factions who agreed to join forces, at least temporarily, to defend Bourj Al Barajneh.

The fresh casualties raised to 77 killed and 647 wounded the overall toll in the 22-day-old fighting across the densely populated slums on Beirut's southern edge, AP said.

The fighting raged despite Syria's effort to halt the bloodshed which Arab leaders fear could plunge Lebanon, already ravaged by 11½ years of sectarian and factional conflicts, into more turmoil.

The thuds of explosions echoed across Beirut during the night and through the streets rushing victims to hospitals.

A Palestinian spokesman said fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and others who oppose him were "jointly defending" the camp against attacks by Amal.

Arafat loyalists make up the bulk of Bourj Al Barajneh's garrison. His opponents who had shelled Shi'ite slums in south Beirut for three days to ease Amal's pressure on the camp did not fire Wednesday.

Mr. Berri and other leftist Lebanese leaders met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam on Tuesday. Afterwards, Mr. Berri said the shelling by the six-faction, Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front from the Shouf mountains "has exploded the situation and launched all-out war against us."

Witnesses quoted by AP said Soviet-made Grad rockets apparently fired from positions held by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), long sympathetic to the Palestinians, exploded in the Shi'ite suburbs of Bir Al Abed, Ghobeiry and Ouzai.

An Amal communique issued in Beirut on Tuesday vowed to

(Continued on page 5)

Jerusalem 'truce talks' break up amid continuing Jewish violence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A meeting between Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem broke up in disarray on Wednesday after extremist Jews provoked a slogan-shouting match and clashed with Israeli police while two Arabs were wounded when Jews threw stones at their car.

The meeting was an attempt to end a spree of anti-Arab violence by Jews after an Israeli youth was stabbed to death in Jerusalem on Saturday.

In the wake of the attack, Jews stoned and firebombed Arab homes in the Old City, damaging at least two homes and wounding several Arabs. Many Arab families fled the area in panic.

Naim Kutaro, 35, told AP she left her home on Sunday because of the attacks and threats. "The Jews" scared us with their bottles and rocks. We could not sleep, so we went to our neighbours," she said.

Wednesday's reconciliation

meeting was arranged by Amir Cheshin, an Israeli official in charge of Arab affairs of the occupation authorities. He said the only agreement the meeting reached was to form a joint panel to review ways of calming the tension.

The meeting was disrupted when three Jewish students from a religious school ran forward shouting: "Ein shalom, ein shalom" (there is no peace, there is no peace).

Arab onlookers chanted back: "Filastine Arabiyeh" (Palestine is Arab). Merchants slammed down their shutters and police grabbed the shouting and kicking students in a swirl of flying fists and insults.

Mr. Cheshin said representatives of the religious school studied had refused to attend Wednesday's meeting. "But police will keep close tabs on them to prevent trouble," he said.

In the neighbourhood of the home of the slain Israeli youth, an

Israeli policeman was injured Tuesday night when a stone was thrown at his car by Jewish demonstrators.

In the walled Old City, Palestinian boys carted away burned doors and clothing Wednesday morning from two fire-damaged homes that were targets of Jewish attacks.

Hours after Wednesday's attack, two Arab motorists were wounded when Jews threw stones at their cars, and a room in a Palestinian home was damaged by arson. Police said two Jewish suspects were arrested.

An Arab home and a storeroom were hit Tuesday night and police arrested 20 Jewish stone-throwers after they injured three people in Arab cars and attacked police vehicles.

Police arrested three young Arabs minutes after Saturday's killing and say they confessed to carrying out the knifing for the

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt: Mideast peace is far off

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt, on the ninth anniversary of the first visit to occupied Jerusalem by its late President Anwar Sadat, said a final peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict was still far off.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters: "The way to peace is still long and full of obstacles... but the peace process will go on."

Mr. Sadat's 1977 visit brought direct talks between Egypt and Israel and agreement, with the help of then U.S. President Jimmy Carter, on the Camp David framework.

In Helsinki, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin expressed optimism on Wednesday about the chances for peace in the Middle East but said only the countries involved in the conflict could reach a settlement.

Mr. Rabin, on a private visit to Finland, told a news conference: "I am optimistic of reaching peace. We are ready to negotiate peace but we are not responsible to the United Nations or the superpowers. Only Israel and the Arab countries that are at war can make peace."

Mr. Rabin said the Palestinian problem could only be solved through talks between Israel and Jordan, adding that Jordan should seek to create a Jordan-Palestinian state.

In Singapore, Israeli President Chaim Herzog said Tuesday Israel was gradually being accepted by the Arabs and many Arab states tacitly accepted the principle of direct negotiations.

"Three Arab governments have formally accepted the principle of direct negotiations with Israel: Egypt, Morocco and Jordan," Mr.

Herzog said at a dinner given in his honour by Singapore President Wee Kim Wee.

Many other countries "have given this approach their tacit approval," Mr. Herzog said.

President Wee in his speech urged Israel to give up some of its past military gains, including the occupied territories, in order to secure peace.

Israel should also be prepared to accept a Palestinian state and rescind measures it took recently to alter the character and status of Jerusalem, Mr. Wee said.

"Sooner or later, the peace process must be restarted. It is Israel's interest to extend the process of reconciliation with Egypt to Jordan and Syria. Eventually, a state of peace can prevail in the Middle East," Mr. Wee said.

Soviet Union adopts law to permit limited degree of private enterprise

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's parliament, the Supreme Soviet, adopted legislation on Wednesday which allows private enterprise on a small scale but falls short of changes introduced in Hungary and other communist countries.

From May 1, some 25 types of private economic activity will be allowed, including the manufacture of clothes, shoes, furniture and toys.

Skilled workers will be able to repair apartments, cars, televisions and radios, and private tuition will be allowed in subjects which are on the curricula of schools and universities.

The measure, unanimously adopted by the Supreme Soviet, is an official recognition of the fact that some "moonlighting" is already going on.

Government bodies will regulate the activities of individuals offering services and

will see that incomes "correspond to input and the principle of social justice."

Expanding on this clause, Ivan Gladky, chairman of the state committee for labour and social issues, a body with ministerial status, told reporters: "You cannot work a little and earn a lot."

The law supplements a measure earlier this year aimed at penalising black-market dealers and speculators.

Mr. Gladky said that in drafting the new law, legislators had "attentively examined the examples of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Yugoslavia."

The new Soviet law, likewise, does not affect agriculture, whereas in Poland farmers remain overwhelmingly in private hands. Soviet farmers working on state and collective enterprises have

long had the right to market produce from small private plots.

The law applies to citizens over 18 who also work in the state sector, housewives, students, pensioners and the disabled.

Only members of individual families will be able to run small businesses, as private hiring of labour is banned under the Soviet constitution. Tax must be paid on earnings.

The legislation follows articles in the press praising the new economic policy of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, who in 1921 freed many areas of the economy from state control.

But it falls short of the Leninist policy in several respects, notably by not allowing private commerce. All major industrial, commercial and agricultural activities will remain firmly in the hands of ministries in Moscow and the 15 Soviet republics.

Seoul still seeing power struggle in Pyongyang

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea, shaken by the mistaken speculation about the death of North Korean President Kim Il Sung, still held out wistful hopes on Wednesday that he faced an internal power struggle.

Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong urged South Koreans to be all the more vigilant against possible North Korean "aggression" after the Kim Saga. He said the speculation, which was sparked by North Korean military loudspeaker broadcasts along the border, might have reflected an internal battle for power.

He told a meeting of government officials and civilians: "all this could also have been part of their sinister plots and machinations to disrupt our judgement."

The guessing-game ended on Tuesday when Mr. Kim, ruler of the communist north for 41 years, was seen greeting visiting Mongolian leader Zhambyn Batmunkh at Pyongyang airport.

Mr. Lho said: "Whether the broadcasts were part of their highly sophisticated psychological warfare or were the result of an

internal power struggle, we should strengthen our guard against them so as not to let them miscalculate our defence posture."

Other Seoul officials said the mysterious broadcasts along the 250-kilometre Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) dividing the Koreas indicated Mr. Kim was facing a military revolt.

They said troops opposed to Mr. Kim might have seized parts of the country but failed to capture Pyongyang or the state broadcasting system.

While many elements of mystery remained, the South Korean media accused North Korea of a hoax in connection with reports of the death of Mr. Kim.

Front-page stories in newspapers charged the north with trying to discredit and destabilise South Korea.

Evidence, in the form of television film and photographs along with reports from witnesses, continued to pile up to show that the North Korean leader was alive, in apparent good health and going on with his every day duties.

Seoul newspapers published

what they called a chronology of the North Korean border broadcasts, but, so far as was known, there had been no public broadcast of any tape recordings that might have been made.

Defence Minister Lee Ki-Baek was quoted as telling a national assembly committee that the loudspeaker accounts resulted from an internal power struggle in the north, or "highly sophisticated psychological warfare for armed provocations against the south."

A senior government official told foreign journalists here on Wednesday there was strong opposition in the north over Mr. Kim's plan to transfer power to his son and heir-apparent Jong-Il in what would be the communist world's first dynastic succession.

"Particularly in some sections of the northern military such as the senior Kim's ageing contemporaries, discontent has been increasingly smouldering," he said.

North and south, implacable enemies since the 1950-53 Korean war, have had no dialogue since Pyongyang called off all talks

in January, except for discussions in Switzerland on northern demands to share the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Tension is especially high at present because of a plan to build a huge dam in the north. Seoul says it could bring disaster to the south if breached as an invasion prelude.

The senior South Korean official said the episode emphasised the need for resumed dialogue to open "the northern society and prevent any miscalculation on either side."

China accused the Western media of spreading rumours when reporting that Mr. Kim had been killed.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told a regular weekly briefing for journalists that rumours about Mr. Kim had been spread by South Korea and Western news agencies.

"One news agency spread the rumour that he was assassinated and the killers had fled to China. I suppose this is utterly groundless and fabricated with ulterior motives," he said.

CIA reportedly conducted operations in Iran for 7 years

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The CIA has conducted operations in Iran for seven years to try to thaw relations with Tehran and, at the same time, to help opponents of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's once-secret programme of contacts and arms shipments to Iran was just a part of an effort that started when Jimmy Carter was president, the Post said.

Nevertheless, Pentagon and White House officials told the Associated Press that the chairman of the military joint chiefs of staff is prepared to tell Congress that the Pentagon knew nothing of Mr. Reagan's decision to ship military supplies.

The Post report, citing intelligence and other sources it did not identify, said the CIA provided the Khomeini government with a list of between 100 and 200 names of people said to be Soviet collaborators and intelligence agents. About 200 suspects were executed, dealing a major blow to Soviet operations and influence in Iran, the report said.

Under Carter, while 52 Americans were being held captive in Tehran, the CIA began several operations against Khomeini in order to gather information and inflict "punishment" on the Iranian government, the article said.

Since then the CIA has supported opponents of the Khomeini regime, the report said.

The efforts include:

- Sending almost \$6 million in aid to the front for the liberation of Iran, the Paris based main group of Iranian exiles opposed to Khomeini.

- Providing equipment and money for the front's anti-Khomeini radio station in Egypt, which broadcasts into Iran; and

- Supplying a transmitter so Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, could beam an 11-minute broadcast into Iran in September.

Quoting administration sources, the Post also reported that among the supplies Mr. Reagan sent Iran in recent months were parts for Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and for Tow anti-tank missiles.

Adm. William J. Crowe, chairman of the joint chiefs, is to

testify next Tuesday before the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives. The officials, who asked not to be named, said neither Adm. Crowe nor the other members of the joint chiefs had been informed about the secret shipments.

"The chairman had no knowledge," said one. "There's nothing he can add to that."

Publicly, spokesmen for Adm. Crowe and the Pentagon declined to discuss what the admiral will say.

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, told reporters on Tuesday that Adm. Crowe "will certainly say what he wants to without any constraints from the (Defence) Department."

Mr. Sims refused to discuss Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger's knowledge of, or opposition to, the Iranian arms shipment programme, which was run by officials of the White House's National Security Council.

Secretary of State George Shultz has made no secret of the fact that he opposed providing military hardware to Iran.

The New York Times reported in Wednesday editions that Mr. Shultz has asked Mr. Reagan for a firm commitment not to provide more military equipment to Iran and to agree that future diplomatic contacts with Tehran have State Department participation.

The newspaper quoted unidentified officials as saying Mr. Shultz told Mr. Reagan that unless those requests were honoured, he would be forced to resign.

State Department and White House spokesmen also denied a national public radio report Tuesday night that Mr. Shultz had offered his resignation to Mr. Reagan.

Despite the fact that Mr. Shultz's disagreement with the administration became public, Mr. Reagan is not annoyed with him and wants him to stay on, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

He also said that the president wants his National Security Adviser, John Poindexter, to stay on. Mr. Poindexter has been widely reported to have coordinated the secret diplomatic contacts with Iran, which have been criticised sharply on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Referring to a report suggesting that there would be a cabinet reshuffling, Speakes said, "I haven't heard anybody give him (Reagan) that advice and I haven't given to him."

Asked directly whether Mr. Shultz would remain in the cabinet, Speakes said, "as far as I'm concerned, as far as the president's concerned."

Speakes reiterated that the White House will make information about U.S.-Iran contacts "available in detail to the Congress, in formal briefings and in testimony this week. We're not holding anything back."

He said he believes the information will include details on the arms provided to Iran and the timing of the deliveries.

The Senate and House Intelligence Committees are scheduled to hold hearings on the Iranian contacts on Friday.

Meanwhile former President Carter accused his successor Tuesday of making a grave mistake.

Gerald Ford, Mr. Carter's predecessor, said those responsible for the clandestine operation deserved wide condemnation.

Two public opinion polls have

indicated Mr. Reagan's attempts to explain the affair were not believed by ordinary Americans.

Mr. Carter said in a television interview Tuesday: "we've paid ransom in effect to the kidnappers of our hostages... this is a very serious mistake in how to handle a kidnapping or hostage-taking."

Mr. Carter, condemned by Mr. Reagan as humbly weak and indecisive in his dealings with Iran, demanded full White House disclosure of "the entire Iranian caper."

Mr. Ford, appearing with Mr. Carter on the same programme, said: "The minute you do what appears to have been done here, whether it's true or not, the impression is that you paid ransom."

"Who initiated this, who carried it out, I think deserves some condemnation by certain people in the Congress, by people on the outside."

An opinion poll in the Los Angeles Times said 79 per cent of Americans believed Mr. Reagan's denial of direct ransom was at worst false and at best only technically true. Only 14 per cent of 1,480 polled said they believed him.

An ABC news survey immediately after Mr. Reagan's national TV address last Thursday found 56 per cent believed the arms shipments were part of a direct deal to get the hostages back and that 79 per cent disapproved of such an action.

Beirut group denies holding Carton

BEIRUT (AP) — The Revolutionary Justice Organisation which has claimed the abduction of some of the French hostages in Lebanon reportedly denied Wednesday it holds diplomat Marcel Carton captive or that it has pledged to release him.

Beirut's independent daily An Nahar said a man purporting to speak for the group made the denial in a telephone call to the newspaper's offices shortly after midnight (2200 GMT Tuesday).

There was no way to authenticate the call.

But it came after an anonymous caller claimed earlier this week that the Revolutionary Justice Organisation would free Carton, 63, at west Beirut's Beauvoir Hotel at midnight Monday. That claim was made Monday in a call to local radio station.

Dozens of photographers and reporters waited all night at the hotel, but no hostage showed up. A French embassy spokesman and Syrian military observers based at the hotel said later they believed the call was a hoax.

'Israel ready to give U.K. more details on Vanunu'

TEL AVIV (R) — An aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday Israel was prepared to tell Britain how nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu ended up in an Israeli jail after leaking atomic secrets to a London newspaper.

Spokesman Yossi Ahimeir told Reuters: "They (the British) got all the answers to their previous questions and they know everything was done legally. We think the government got all the information, but if they ask for more, they will get it."

Vanunu, 31, disappeared from London on Sept. 30 after telling the Sunday Times that Israel had been producing atom bombs for more than 20 years at its top-secret Dimona reactor.

Home Office Junior Minister David Waddington said in London Tuesday night that Britain would not hold an official inquiry into Vanunu's disappearance, but he described Israeli explanations so far as unsatisfactory.

After a month's silence, Israel admitted on Nov. 9 that it was holding Vanunu. He is in jail facing possible treason charges.

British Ambassador William Scoville last week asked the Israeli Foreign Minister to explain how Vanunu left British soil. He was told only that the technician departed of his own volition and through normal procedures.

Ahimeir said Britain knew how Vanunu was brought to Israel and that the Jewish state had not broken any British laws.

But diplomatic sources in Tel Aviv said Israel had still not told Britain how or when Vanunu left London or how he was brought back to this country.

The sources said London had no independent evidence of Vanunu's departure from Britain and could hardly challenge the word of the Israeli government.

The Israeli newspaper Davar reported Wednesday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would be asked to testify at Vanunu's trial behind closed doors.

Vanunu's lawyer Amnon Zichroni said it was not clear when his client would be officially charged.

U.S. defence firm negotiating with Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — A private U.S. military consulting firm is negotiating with Iraq on the possibility of providing computer and logistical support in its war with Iran, administration officials have said.

Pentagon spokesman Bob Sims told reporters he was aware of contacts between Iraq and BDM International, a suburban Washington company, but said the U.S. government had received no formal request from the firm to provide services to Iraq.

"I am aware of contacts that, I think, the company or the Iraqi government might best discuss. But we have no request from BDM for a license to provide contract services," Mr. Sims said.

He said he was not aware of any direct contact between the Iraqi government and the U.S. government on the matter, and he stressed that Washington's position on the six-year-old war was one of neutrality.

President Reagan acknowledged last week that he had authorised the shipment of small amounts of defensive arms to Iran in an effort to improve relations with the government of

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. BDM International had no immediate comment when asked by Reuters about published and broadcast reports on the negotiations with Iraq. But Mr. Sims told reporters any formal contract request by BDM would require State Department and Pentagon approval.

Other administration officials, who asked not to be identified, said the firm had done business with the Defence Department and was in a position to offer sound military logistical advice to Iraq.

OPEC fund to grant \$330,000 to West Bank

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The OPEC fund for International Development Tuesday approved grants totalling \$530,000 for Mauritania and the occupied territories of Palestine.

Mauritania will receive \$200,000 to help finance the first phase of the country's second

national population census, covering the period 1986-1988, while a grant of \$330,000 will go to the Society of Handicrafts Training Workshops for Girls for a knitting plant project on the West Bank.

The fund's governing board, meeting in its 38th session here,

also discussed the administrative budget, disbursement requirements for 1987 and replenishment of the technical assistance and research accounts.

Of the fund's total lending commitments to date of 1.97 billion, some 77 per cent, or \$1.51 billion, has been disbursed to Third World countries.

Israel has no plans to return envoy to Vienna

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that Israel had no plans to return its ambassador to Vienna. He was withdrawn in protest against the election of President Kurt Waldheim, who is accused of having a Nazi past.

"We decided to settle with a lower-level representation and we think we will change this," Mr. Peres told parliament in Israel's first decisive statement on the future of Austrian-Israeli relations.

Israel recalled Ambassador Michael Elitzur on June 9 after the former U.N. Secretary-General won Austria's presidential election.

Dr. Waldheim is accused of involvement in Nazi war crimes

while serving as an intelligence officer in Hitler's army in the Balkans during World War II.

Mr. Peres said deep doubts remained about his election. Dr. Waldheim has denied the allegations about his past. Mr. Peres said Israel's relations with Vienna would depend a great deal upon other countries' ties with Austria and said S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused to meet Dr. Waldheim in Vienna recently.

Austrian Ambassador Otto Fleinhart asked Israel last month for clarification of the future of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He was recalled to Vienna for consultations after Israel refused to say if it would return its ambassador.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month that Israel would wait until Austrian general elections on Nov. 23 before deciding on the future of diplomatic relations with Vienna.

Austria's ruling Socialist Party forced early general elections after its coalition partner, the Austrian Freedom Party, elected a new leader regarded as an extreme rightist.

Mr. Peres said he did not think Austria would change its policy of allowing Soviet Jewish emigrants on their way to Israel to stop in Vienna as a result of his ministry's decision.

The Israeli mission in Vienna is now headed by a charge d'affaires.

Rifai: U.S. explanations unconvincing

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein said that if true, it would be a sad development and a departure from declared U.S. policies.

Mr. Rifai said Syria could not be held responsible for terrorist acts that Washington claims were committed against Jordan by Syrian-backed groups. According to a list released by the U.S. administration last week, Jordan was the target or location of at least 24 of 46 terrorist incidents

since January 1986 that the American government claimed were carried out by Syria or Syrian-backed groups.

"Our information is that all of the acts were perpetrated by Palestinian organisations, some of which have offices in Damascus," Mr. Rifai said.

"This does not mean the Syrian government was involved in them or was responsible for them."

Mr. Rifai also repeated his denials that Jordan's \$1.4 billion development plan for the

Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was aimed at competing with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.) for influence.

"We're not trying to win over the West Bankers to us," he said. Claims that Jordan was trying to supplant the P.L.O. as representative of the Palestinians were "nonsense," he said.

He pointed out that other Arab states had entrusted Jordan with responsibility for helping West Bankers in 1974.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

- 15:55 — News Summary
- 16:00 — Local news show
- 16:05 — Scientific programme (Arabic)
- 17:25 — Run Away Istanbul
- 17:40 — Documentary on Agriculture
- 18:00 — Sports programme
- 19:30 — News programme
- 19:50 — Programme review and varieties
- 20:00 — News in Arabic
- 20:30 — Arabic series
- 21:30 — Local series
- 21:55 — Tomorrow's programmes
- 22:00 — Arabic film
- 23:00 — News summary in Arabic
- 23:10 — Film continued

PROGRAMME TWO

- 18:00 — Le printemps de Bourges
- 18:10 — News in French
- 18:15 — French programme
- 19:30 — News in Hebrew
- 19:45 — Sport Magazine
- 20:00 — News in Arabic
- 20:30 — Check it Out
- 21:10 — Falcon Crest
- 22:00 — News in English
- 22:20 — "Supernatural III"

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 KHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 — Light Music

- 07:30 — News
- 08:00 — Morning Show
- 09:00 — News Summary
- 09:05 — Morning Show
- 10:00 — Pop Session
- 11:00 — Hitville: The story of Motown
- 11:30 — News Summary
- 12:05 — News Music
- 13:00 — News Summary
- 13:05 — Pop Session
- 14:00 — News Bulletin
- 14:10 — Instrumentals
- 14:30 — Just a Minute
- 15:00 — News
- 15:05 — News Summary
- 16:00 — News Summary
- 16:05 — Instrumentals
- 17:00 — Old Favourites
- 17:30 — The Musical in Review
- 17:50 — Pop Session
- 18:00 — News Summary
- 18:05 — Special Feature
- 18:30 — Music
- 19:00 — News
- 19:30 — Date with a Star
- 20:00 — Evening Show
- 21:00 — News Summary
- 21:45 — Evening Show Cont.

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & 7520, 95.6, 11740,
11925 & 15210 Hz

05:00 News, Informal Presentation of Popular Choice with the News

- 05:15 Meridian 19:30 Best Seller
- 05:30 News in English
- 05:45 News in Arabic
- 06:00 News in English
- 06:15 News in Arabic
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- 24:00 News in English

FOR FRIDAY

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- 19:40 — Documentary on Agriculture
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855 KHz, AM & 99 KHz, FM
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- 20:00 — Evening Show
- 21:00 — News Summary
- 21:45 — Evening Show Cont.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of paintings by Wendy Powell at the British Council (until Nov. 20).

"The City" German cartoons on architecture at the University of Jordan (until Nov. 21).

Indian book exhibition at Yamouk University library (until Nov. 20).

German book exhibition at the University of Jordan (until Nov. 26).

An exhibition of Yugoslavian products and industries at the Jerusalem Franchise Hotel.

Soviet art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Nov. 23).

Photo exhibition at the French Cultural Centre (until Nov. 20).

An exhibition of contemporary art in the Federal Republic of Germany at the Petra Bank Gallery (until Nov. 29).

The Goethe Institute presents German cartoons at the Department of Architecture at University of Jordan (until Nov. 26).

"Les cavaliers de l'orage" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

"The Big Chill" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

A lecture/recital by piano soloist John Clegg at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the British Council. Admission is free.

CINEMA

FEATURE FILM

LECTURE

CULTURAL CENTRES

PRAYER TIMES

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

- Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
- Haya Art Centre 665195
- Husseini Youth City 667181
- Y.W.C.A. 641793
- Y.W.C.A. 664251
- Amman Municipal Library 636111
- University of Jordan Library 843535

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

OTHER FLIGHTS

MARITIME TRAFFIC

MONEY EXCHANGE

WEATHER

DEPARTURES

ALIA FLIGHTS

OTHER FLIGHTS

DEPARTURES

ALIA FLIGHTS

OTHER FLIGHTS

DEPARTURES

ALIA FLIGHTS

OTHER FLIGHTS

DEPARTURES

ALIA FLIGHTS

OTHER FLIGHTS

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228

- Amman civil defence 198, 199
- Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131
- Civil Defence Command 770733
- Civil Defence Det. Alia 77300
- Ambulance 193, 775111
- Amman downtown fire brigade 198
- First aid 636341
- Red Cross 773030
- Civil Defence rescue 661111
- Fire headquarters 622090-3
- Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
- Police headquarters 639141
- Traffic 696300
- Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
- Municipal water complaints 7711258
- Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italian chief of staff visits monument

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Italian army chief of staff, General Riccardo Bisogniero on Wednesday paid a visit to the Martyr's Monument where he was received by the Armed Forces inspector general and the Armed Forces director of moral guidance. The guest toured the various sections of the monument which contains photos and documents on the history of Jordan. Gen. Bisogniero watered the tree of life and wrote in the visitors book. He was presented with the monument's medal as a commemorative gift. The Italian army chief of staff was accompanied on the visit by Italian Ambassador in Amman Luigi Amaduzzi.

Week's road accidents claim 8 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight people were killed and 111 others were injured in road accidents which occurred in Jordan over the past week, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). A PSD statement said that the casualties resulted from 232 accidents, mostly in the capital (133 accidents) followed by Irbid and Zarqa. The least number of accidents occurred in Ma'an where there was only one accident last week.

Irbid marks King's birthday

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Governorate on Wednesday celebrated His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and speeches were delivered by Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, Mayor of Irbid Abdul Razzaq Tabeishat, deputy mayor, Dr. Nader Abu Al Sha'ar, and other prominent figures in the governorate. In their speeches, the speakers stressed the significance of this occasion and reaffirmed their allegiance to the King.

Dahyat leaves for Baghdad today

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth 'Eid Al Dahyat leaves for Baghdad Thursday on an official visit to Iraq for talks with officials on Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in youth and sports related affairs. The talks will be a continuation of those started earlier in Amman and on the exchange of visits by sports and youth delegations in implementation of a bilateral protocol. Mr. Dahyat will be accompanied by the director of the Youth Welfare Organisation and other sports officials.

Air cargo company elects new board

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Air Cargo company's board of directors on Wednesday elected president of the Royal Jordanian Airlines Ali Ghannour as chairman of the company's board for the next two years and under-secretary of the Iraqi Transport Minister Ghassan Radwan as deputy chairman. The decision was taken during a meeting of the company's board of directors held under the chairmanship of Mr. Radwan, the chairman of the board for the present term. During Wednesday's meeting, the board also discussed a number of topics related to the company and took decisions to help the joint company carry out its work.

Geologists send memo to energy ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Geologists Association has sent a memo to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources regarding training for unemployed geologists at various ministries and government departments. The memo suggested that special training programmes be drawn up to give jobless geologists one or two years experience and to use their skills for projects within Jordan's development plan.

Science academy selects Majali as member

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali has been chosen as a member of the Trieste-based Italian academy for Third World Sciences. The academy, which was established in 1983, is chaired by Dr. Mohammad Abdul Salam from Pakistan, who won the 1979 Nobel prize for physics. The institution aims at developing science and technology in Third World countries through supporting research programmes and providing various organisations in developing countries with expertise and needed publications as well as research tools.

AOAS thanks hotel for its efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) has awarded a shield to Mr. Gabriel Khawam, director general of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in appreciation for the hotel's efforts in making the recent 20th conference on administrative science, held in Amman in September, a success.

Water storage situation 'good' with dams, aquifers replenished after rains

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Director of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Zafer Al Aalem said on Wednesday that the water situation in the Kingdom was good and that the recent week of rainfall bodes well for the harvest next year. He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the recent rains have replenished the underground aquifers and increased the quantities of water in the

reservoirs behind dams around the Kingdom. Various dams are now holding a total of 35 million cubic metres of water as a result of the rains, he continued. The rains lead to 21.5 million cubic metres of water being stored in the King Talal reservoir and the retaining walls of this dam are being raised to boost the reservoir's storage capacity. Mr. Aalem said. He added that 92 per cent of the work to raise the height of the dam is now complete and that once it is finished, the reservoir will have a capacity of 82 million cubic metres instead of the present capacity of 48 million cubic metres.

He said that 7.5 million cubic metres of water have been stored in the Wadi Al Arab reservoir which can store up to 20 million cubic metres. He noted that the reservoir is continually being pumped to feed the East Ghor Canal at a rate of 1.2 cubic metres a second. According to Mr. Aalem 2.5 million cubic metres of water have now been stored in the Kafra and Wadi Shueib reservoirs and he added that the Ziglab reservoir accumulated 2.5 million cubic metres of water as a result of the recent rains.

Chamber of commerce gears up for elections on Nov. 25

AMMAN — (J.T.) — Elections for a new board of directors for the Amman Chamber of Commerce will take place in Amman on Nov. 25 and the voting will be supervised by committee chaired by Amman Governor Ahmad Hindawi, according to an official announcement issued on Wednesday.

Mr. Hindawi said in the announcement that the current number of candidates running for the 12-seat board is 43, down from 50 registered candidates earlier this month. The governor said that the supervising committee has assigned three ballot boxes for the election, which will be held at the chamber of Commerce building. The elections will last from eight in the morning until six in the evening and the counting of votes will start immediately afterwards.

Meanwhile, the contestants are currently waging a heated campaign at all levels, especially through notices in the local press directed at nearly 12,000 registered members of the chamber. Current president Hamdi Al Tabba' has formed the 'Cooperative Block' which groups six other colleagues.

Manpower projects development budgetted at JD 4m for 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Labour sources estimated the cost of projects for manpower development during the coming five years to be JD 4,006,800. The sources said that one of the most important projects to be implemented during the ministry's five-year development plan for 1986-1990, is to establish a computer network to provide all necessary charts and data on the

manpower and the labour market in Jordan in order to prepare the required qualified cadre. The plan also includes projects for setting up a computer in the Social Security Corporation, increasing the number of vocational training centres in the Kingdom and expanding the present centres in addition to upgrading the centre for vocational safety and security.

AGFUND finances schools for refugees in the West Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has received two new schools which were built in the occupied West Bank and financed by the Riyadh-based Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND).

According to UNRWA sources in Amman, some 2,000 students will be moved from their unsuitable schools in Beit Jala and other areas to these new buildings. AGFUND earlier donated \$2.4 million for the construction of three schools in the West Bank,

including the two which have already been completed. UNRWA said that the third school will be built near Rammah town in the Nablus area.

According to an UNRWA release, AGFUND is spending \$320,000 to improve facilities for the Palestine refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An amount of \$80,000 will be used for self-help projects in the West Bank and the remainder will be used to improve sanitary facilities at UNRWA schools in Gaza, the release said.

Ambassador outlines the ups and downs of democracy in Sudan

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political dialogue, not a military crackdown, is the only key to ending the long-running conflict in South Sudan, according to Sudan's ambassador to Jordan Ramadan Mahjoub.

Mr. Mahjoub, in a lecture he delivered on Tuesday, said that his country was sincerely seeking a political dialogue with the rebellion leader Colonel John Garang in order to arrive at a peaceful solution to the ongoing unrest in the South.

The new policy-makers in Sudan have considered as a top priority the situation in the South and have continuously sought to solve the problem through a round table dialogue. Mr. Mahjoub told a large audience at the World Affairs Council (WAC).

The Sudanese ambassador whose lecture was entitled "Democracy in Sudan" made a chronological review of his country's political stands and democratic experience as well as the implications and developments of the situation in the Southern regions since the start of a government-rebel conflict at the turn of the century.

Since 1956, Sudan has witnessed a seven-and-a-half-year of intermittent democratic rule, the Sudanese ambassador said. The remaining 23 years were different stages of military rule. Hence, Mr. Mahjoub continued, the democratic experience in Sudan has not had the chance to prove either its success or failure. From 1956 until 1964, the process of decision making in Sudan was in the hands of a handful of high-ranking military officers who advocated the idea of solving the conflict in the South by means of military action. Subsequently, the military government at that time drafted repressive regulations and laws on the southern regions and

implemented them by force. Earlier in the transitional ruling phase and following the formation of a national parliament, the Southern legislators in the mid-50's called on the government to adopt the concept of a federal state incorporating the South and North under one banner. As the military government seized power, the new decision-makers dumped the Southern demands and sought to impose a mandate by means of military action, the ambassador told the audience, which included Jordanian intellectuals and public figures as well as several members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

The political crackdown in the South, which comprises three main provinces: the Upper Nile, tropical and Bahr Al Ghazal, provoked a bitter confrontation between the central government and the Southerners.

However, following the downfall of the first military rule in 1964, a people's democratic rule emerged in Khartoum and this lasted until 1969, said Mr. Mahjoub. The prime concern of the new democratic government was to defuse tension in the South by seeking a peaceful solution to the government — rebel confrontation, he added.

Divisions surface. However, the political leadership split into two parties: those advocating a political solution and those calling for military action to settle the conflict once and for all. Mr. Mahjoub said that despite the rift over the means of settlement and the continuation of guerrilla warfare in the South, both parties sat down together in 1965, but the interlocutors failed to arrive at a durable and comprehensive settlement to the conflict, a fact which negatively reflected on socio-economic, administrative and legal structures of the country.



Ramadan Mahjoub

"If one has to consider that the ousted president Jaafar Numeiri's regime has one advantage, it could be the fact that Numeiri's government managed to partially settle the conflict in the South," Mr. Mahjoub underlined.

Numeiri, by seizing power in 1969, established the second stage of military rule in Sudan's contemporary history, an uninterrupted 16 years of rule which eventually left the country even more unstable, poor, drought-stricken and internationally indebted to the tune of approximately \$10 billion.

National committee

At the outset of his rule Numeiri formed a national committee to draw up a comprehensive perspective of the Southern conflict. The committee's study acknowledged historic, cultural, religious and linguistic differences between the Northern and Southern parts of Sudan. Acting on the study, the

JVA signs agreement for designs and studies on Karameh dam

AMMAN (Petra) — Two firms, one local and the other British, have signed an agreement with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) under which the firms will conduct investigative studies and prepare designs for the construction of a projected dam at Karameh in the Jordan Valley. The dam will be built at Wadi Al Mallaha, north west of Karameh town, according to JVA sources.

The projected dam will be 42 metres high and is needed to store flood waters at the rate of 55 million cubic metres annually for use in the irrigation of lands in the Jordan Valley region, the sources said. This could be increased to 75 million cubic metres they added.

The work will entail accumulating some five million cubic metres of earth and rocks and building a retaining wall 42 metres high and 1.4 kilometres long, the sources said.

Pumping station

Near the bottom of the dam, a station will be built to pump the water into the East Ghor Canal to irrigate lands around the Karameh area and the reservoir itself is expected to be five kilometres long and six square kilometres in area, the sources explained. They said that the designs for the three-year project will be completed by the end of

this year when a tender will be floated to award the scheme to a construction company which will start implementing it early next year.

JVA director general Munther Haddadin signed the agreement on Wednesday with representatives of the two companies.

Dr. Haddadin is due to leave Amman on Saturday for visits to the United States and Britain where he will hold talks on means exploiting water resources in the Jordan Valley region. JVA sources said that his talks with British and American consultants will also cover the JVA's Karameh dam project and other schemes included in the JVA's five year plan.

BUC club organises special concert to raise funds for needy students

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a continuing effort to support needy students, the Beirut University College (BUC) Alumni Club has organised a concert at the Royal Cultural Centre starring Majda Al Roumi. Proceeds from the concert will go towards scholarships for ten Jordanian students, said Mrs. Amal Baker Hamed, vice president of the BUC Alumni Club.

"To raise the hopes of the people, we feel we have to help in the education of students," said Mrs. Hamed. The main aim of the BUC Alumni Club for the past 22 years has been to provide full scholarships for bright Jordanian students who do not have the funds necessary to attend university in the Kingdom.

To receive the aid, the student must fulfil two requirements in addition to being in dire need of money. He or she must pass the tawjihi examinations with a grade higher than 80 per cent and must already have his acceptance from either the University of Jordan or

Yarmouk University. Usually the students are sent to the BUC Alumni Club by the Ministry of Social Development or friends of the members, said Mrs. Hamed.

When the project began, the members of the club were only able to educate three students. By 1983 the number of students who received the scholarships that year reached 19. Thereafter, the number of students decreased each year due to a lack of funds. "This year we have not been able to help any new students. Last year fifteen students received scholarships, five of whom were final year students. The remaining ten are the ones we are trying to raise funds for this year," she said.

Five to six thousand Jordanian dinars are needed yearly to cover the tuition fees for the students, said Mrs. Hamed. "Two good fundraisers a year can usually cover the expenses," she added. The students receive the money "with no strings attached." Over the years, approximately 42 students have received full scholarships ranging from four to seven years depending on their field of study. "For instance this year we have two medical students who have seven year scholarships," said Mrs. Hamed.

Of the ten students, the BUC Alumni Club is helping this year, four are females. "Initially we only supported female students because the BUC is a female university. However, after the 1970's the scholarships were open to both males and females," she said. Five of the students are attending the University of Jordan and the other five are studying at



Majda Roumi

Yarmouk University. The first performance was on Wednesday night under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid. For two nights only Majda Al Roumi's unique voice will fill the hall of the Royal Cultural Centre. Ms. Roumi told the Jordan Times that half the programme consists of new songs. "These songs were written especially for this concert and will be sung for the first time during the two-day performance," she said.

The 28-year old Lebanese singer has been greatly influenced by her father, Halim Roumi, a well-known artist in the Arab World. The surrounding artistic atmosphere attracted Ms. Roumi at a young age, and at the age of 16 she won first place for singing in a programme for a amateur artists on Lebanese television. Since then she has become renowned in the Middle East region for her voice, characterised by its ability to reach very high notes.

Hindawi inspects scouting camp

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Minister of Education Thoukan Al Hindawi on Wednesday visited the permanent scouts training camp in the town of Karameh and voiced his ministry's readiness to support the scout movement in the Kingdom.

Mr. Hindawi, who was accom-

panied on his tour by the ministry's undersecretary Izzat Freidat, was briefed on the camp's goals and the progress of its training and guidance programmes. The minister was also briefed on the stages the permanent camp underwent, its needs and the problems impeding its expansion.



Mr. Ashok Deyal, executive director banking of Grindlays Bank and a member of the International Panel of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Great Britain, handing over the key of the van to Miss Samar Khilwal, National coordinator of the award scheme. Also present are Mr. D. F. McKenzie, the general manager of Grindlays Bank in Jordan, Mr. A.A. Salakh, manager Retail Branches and Mr. Mohammed Al Amri, a member of the bank's staff.

Bank donates mini-van to Crown Prince's Award scheme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Grindlays Bank has donated a mini-van to the Crown Prince Award scheme, according to a press release issued in Amman on Wednesday.

The 'Crown Prince's Award scheme has now been in operation in Jordan for three years. It started off with a small group of students but now involves several hundred young people in schools in Amman, Balqa, Madaba, Zarqa and at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. These participants, from 14 to 25 years old, are all carrying out a programme which stretches their capabilities to the full in the following areas: physical recreation, a skill, expedition training and community service.

After successfully completing the award at the bronze, silver or gold levels, the participants will have become more self-reliant and will have greater awareness of the needs of the community in which they live, the release said.

Such an undertaking requires considerable help from adults, who are all volunteers, in organising the scheme and, similarly, running the scheme requires financial help. Grindlays Bank have made a great contribution towards the scheme by donating a mini-van to ease the transport difficulties of the volunteer instructors and have also offered to print literature for the scheme, according to the release.

CORRECTION

Further to the notice regarding winning tickets in the Jordan Welfare Lottery — ordinary issue no. 331, drawing date Nov. 17, 1986 — there is a correction to the winning tickets as follows:

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 6
10911 10920 10010 11910 20910
10919 10900 10610 19910 00910

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 40 each wins JD 4

40769 40776 40668 41768 50768
40767 40758 40668 40768 30768

TICKETS ENDING WITH

5383 8694 8995 3406 9700; win JD 10 each

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Irreparable damage

THE calculated disclosure that U.S. companies have been given the green light to provide Iraq with a high-technology computer system does not go far enough to rectify the damage caused by the disclosure that the U.S. and other Western countries had been providing Iran with weapons since 1982. The damage we speak of is that which was dealt to U.S. credibility and wisdom, as well as to the cause of putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

We certainly reject the proposition that providing arms to the two sides in the Iran-Iraq conflict is the right course of action to take. How can a superpower equate the nation which rejects all appeals and proposals to end the war with the nation which has accepted virtually every proposal put on the table? There is only one conclusion to draw from the U.S. and other Western powers' behaviour vis-a-vis the Gulf war. It is that the U.S.-led West does not want that war to end in spite of its high cost.

One may conjecture why certain powers would like this war between two Islamic countries in the strategic Gulf area to continue, seemingly forever. It could not be solely the commercial aspects of the war which attract the attention of the U.S. Certainly, the Israeli involvement in the just discovered Washington-Tehran connection is not purely commercial in nature.

The brewing political romance between the West and Iran has geopolitical consideration at heart. Perhaps this can be understood; but what we cannot understand, and what we deplore is adding insult to injury by offering high technology to Iraq at the same time as heavy armament is being shipped clandestinely to Iran.

In view of its protestations against the continuation of the war, we would hope that the U.S. would at least abstain from providing weapons to either side of the conflict, or better still, to provide arms only to the side which is willing to cooperate with the international community to end the war. But to provide weapons to both sides is the height of deceit in diplomacy. Whatever geopolitical considerations the West has in dealing covertly with Iran, the U.S., its allies and the rest of the world can rest assured that such means will not succeed. The way to attain geopolitical objectives in the Gulf area is through straight and bona fide dealing with the countries of the region. The way is certainly not through duplicity and camouflage. And, while much damage has already been done, there is still time to correct the wrong by leaving aside the tortuous road and taking instead the straight highway.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King describes peace conditions

IN his statements to a Scottish TV network King Hussein was keen to point out that peace in the Middle East is an integral part of world peace and that lack of stability in the Arab area represents a threat to the world's security at large. Therefore, any party that impedes the establishment of peace in the Middle East is exercising a hostile attitude towards the world community and its dreams and aspirations. For peace to be achieved, the King said, it must be based on justice and that the world community should be involved in establishing it and maintaining its momentum. The world community can be represented through the United Nations Security Council member states at an international conference that can find a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the interview, the King reiterated Jordan's condemnation of all forms of terrorist activity and all forms of hegemony and attempts for imposing domination on other nations. He also expressed regret and disappointment over U.S. arms deals with Iran and described this development as very serious and contradicting Washington's declared policy vis-a-vis Iran and other countries that condone terrorism. We see in Washington's decision to sell arms to Iran as further evidence of the lack of credibility in America's policies. We now believe that Washington is ready to sacrifice its values and principles for the sake of serving its own selfish interests even in so doing it causes harm to others.

Al Dustour: King pledges support

JORDAN'S firm Middle East policy was explained by King Hussein in an interview with a Scottish TV network. The monarch said that there can be no peace in the Middle East region if Israel continues to occupy Arab land and that a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be brought about only through an international conference under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties including the Palestinians. The King said that Jordan is committed to help the Arab people of Palestine attain their aspirations and regain their rights because the Jordanian and Palestinian people are closely linked, and the occupied land is Arab territory that embodies the holy shrines. Jordan, as the King said will continue to extend help to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule to strengthen their steadfastness and enable them to preserve Arab identity in the occupied areas. In the interview, King Hussein also condemned all forms of terrorism, but pointed out that resistance of occupation is the right of all oppressed people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Violence breeds violence

OVER the past 19 years Israel has been occupying Palestinian land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and treating the Arab population with the utmost cruelty and repression. The latest acts of terrorism and intimidation being exercised by Israel against the Arab population in the occupied territory is part of Zionist campaigns to subdue the indigenous inhabitants and end all forms of resistance to occupation. But it should be emphasised that violence is bound to breed violence and the Israelis are paving the way for reaping the fruit of their own evil-doing. It should also be said that the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule have decided to resist all forms of repression and hold on to their land regardless of the ferocity of the repressive campaigns. The Arab population have no other alternative except to stand fast in the face of the Israeli atrocities and remain rooted in their land. Of course, the Arab people have to offer sacrifice and to maintain the struggle but in so doing, they are certain of one thing: Preserving their identity and their homeland.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Reagan's secret 'diplomacy' backfires

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Some of the secret diplomacy involving the Middle East is being exposed... in the United States! Earlier in November it was revealed that the Reagan government had been engaged in secret dealings with Iran. In fact, it was acknowledged by President Reagan that the United States had even sent arms to Iran!

I must say that this did not entirely surprise me. When it became known some months ago that the Chinese were supplying arms to Iran, I felt that the United States had given its approval. The United States and China have been working much more closely together in various parts of the world than is generally believed. Just recently, for the first time since the Chinese Communists came to power, U.S. warships visited Chinese ports. That made the "military collaboration" between these two former enemies official.

I also remembered that way back during the days when Nixon was president, close working relations had developed between the United States, China, and Iran. And close working relations had developed between the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. And from observing recent OPEC meetings, it seemed to me that once again Saudi Arabia and Iran appeared to be working together within OPEC.

I do not follow the intricacies of developments in Iran. It is obvious that there are major conflicts in the leadership over policy. That is to be expected if the United States is making new approaches. The United States is, after all, still the "Great Satan"

in Iranian eyes.

Secret diplomacy in the end works only if it is kept tightly secret. But secrets spill out into the media when there are splits within the leadership of various governments. During the Nixon administration, secrets began to spill out into the press at the same time as the Watergate scandals were building up. Yet before then, when Nixon was carrying out super-secret diplomacy in regard to China and North Vietnam, no secrets were revealed to the media. Despite many factional disagreements within the U.S. government, Nixon had managed to keep his secret diplomacy effectively secret.

This time, however, the secrets have been spilling out into the American press. Some of the revelations have apparently come from Iranian sources. Some are now coming from the French. One of the most interesting came from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac who indicated, in an interview with an ultra-right American newspaper, that Israel's Mossad was behind the alleged attempt to blow up an El Al airliner for which a Palestinian was sentenced to a long prison term.

Fifteen years ago former president Nixon was involved in some very tricky manoeuvres in the Middle East. One of the trickiest was his support of an organisation which until early 1971 was a virtually unknown: OPEC. A year later it was known. Two and a half years later it had become a fearfully powerful organisation. All that happened because of an alliance between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and that alliance was brought together through the manoeuvres of Richard Nixon.

Nixon's aim was to move the United States closer to the Arab

World but, obviously, without sacrificing Israel. The game was extremely tricky and when the October 1973 war broke out, the tricks began to explode in the face of the Nixon administration. There are good reasons to think that it was the events of October 1973 in the Middle East, as much as the Watergate scandal investigations, which broke Nixon's presidential power at the time. Nevertheless the United States continued to pursue the outlines of Nixon's Middle Eastern strategy... until it all exploded with the revolution in Iran.

There are many factions in and close to the American government who are bitterly opposed to any move which brings the United States closer to the Arab and Islamic World. They have long wanted to base all U.S. policy in the Middle East on Israel alone. And that means doing what Israel has been doing: Destabilising and spreading dissension throughout the Middle East — a policy of "divide and rule," as the ancient Romans put it.

It is obvious that Israel has been trying hard to destabilise Syria, and it is likely that Washington has resisted pressure from Israel to do likewise by, periodically, going after Libya (a safer target much further away).

We can only wait and see how Washington will survive the new political storm generated by these revelations over U.S. military aid to Iran. The Reagan people are not as clever and tricky in secret diplomacy as were those around Nixon. But the game has very high stakes and all the players are bidding up the game to very high levels.

Efforts to heal rift with Reagan leave Shultz' future unclear

By William Scally
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The administration is trying to heal a public breach between President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz over Iran policy but is leaving it unclear whether Shultz has considered resigning.

Questions about Shultz' future as Reagan's principal foreign affairs spokesman were raised by an extraordinary television interview on Sunday in which the secretary of state described as "debatable" Reagan's decision to send arms to Iran as a signal of good faith.

Shultz also said his information about the secret contacts with Iran had been "fragmentary at best" and opposed further arms shipments — but said he did not speak for the administration.

Since he joined the administration more than four years ago, it has been rare that Shultz, known to be a loyal team player, has split publicly with Reagan on an important foreign policy issue.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes insisted on Monday that Shultz and Reagan agreed there should be no further arms shipments and said Reagan wanted Shultz to stay at his post.

Speakes said Shultz had not quit, but State Department

spokesman Charles Redman refused to repeat Shultz' statement a week ago that he had no plans to go.

Under questioning, Redman refused to go further than Shultz, who, when asked on Sunday if he had considered resigning, replied, "I talked to the president. I serve at his pleasure, and anything that I have to say on that subject, I'd just say to him."

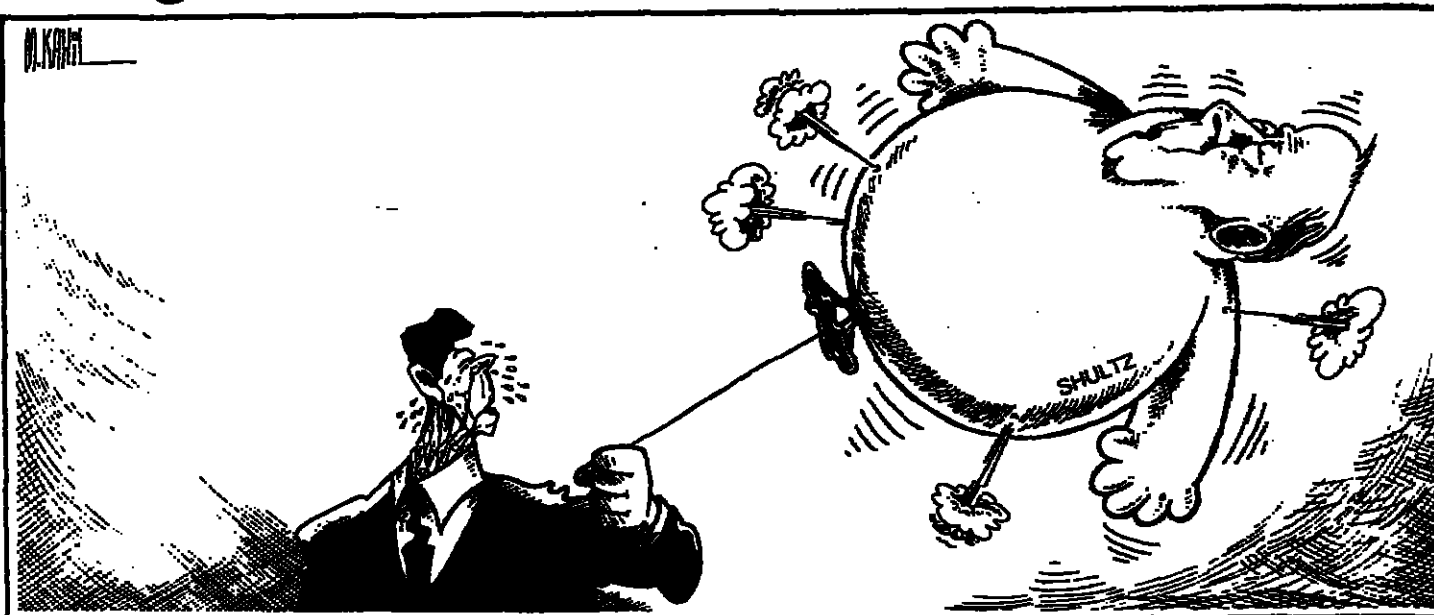
Ironically, it was a dispute over Iran that led another secretary of state to resign. Cyrus Vance quit after President Jimmy Carter ordered a doomed military operation to rescue American hostages in Tehran in 1980.

Vance had been opposed to the rescue attempt and was out of Washington when the go-ahead was given.

Shultz' comments on Sunday were his first public response to the Iran arms controversy since it erupted two weeks ago. In meetings with reporters he had consistently referred questions to the White House.

Disclosure of the arms shipments was seen as embarrassing to Shultz personally. Only last month, in remarks to the Gulf Cooperation Council in New York, he repeated U.S. opposition to supplying arms to Iran in its six-year-old war with Iraq.

The United States repeatedly has proclaimed its neutrality in



the war. It has imposed an arms embargo on Iran, which it accuses of being a terrorist state.

Shultz has been a leading administration proponent of a tough line against "terrorists," opposing any suggestions of making deals and even advocating pre-emptive strikes to combat terrorism.

Although Redman on Monday said the State Department remained the "focal point" of U.S. foreign policy towards Iran and

elsewhere, the situation recalled that which existed during much of President Richard Nixon's administration.

Under Nixon, foreign policy initiatives were undertaken by national security adviser Henry Kissinger, while Secretary of State William Rogers remained largely on the sidelines.

Reagan has compared U.S. contacts with Iran with Nixon's secret moves towards a rapprochement with China.

Critics noted that China did not hold American hostages, no arms were dispatched, and Peking was ready to receive U.S. overtures.

Until the last two weeks, Shultz generally had tried to keep any disagreements with administration foreign policy under wraps.

But he split publicly with Reagan a year ago, opposing the use of lie-detector tests for public officials and questioning a U.S. offer to sell grain to the Soviet Union at bargain prices.

On entering the State Department in July, 1982, Shultz had already determined that the administration was shooting itself in the foot in trying to halt a natural gas pipeline project be-

tween the Soviet Union and West Europe.

But he avoided public criticism and worked from within to mend the alliance.

Shultz was also believed to have been a leading advocate of continued U.S. adherence to the 1979 SALT-2 strategic nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union.

But when Reagan last May said the United States would no longer be bound by the pact, it was Shultz who vigorously defended the new position to unhappy allies at a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation foreign ministers meeting.

South Lebanon's Sidon: the eye of the storm

By Paul Fielder

SIDON — "In Sidon, even the bastards are happy." Thus spoke a senior member of the Popular Nasserite Organisation in Sidon, neatly summing up the unique position that the capital of south Lebanon still holds — it is virtually the only area in Lebanon, albeit limited, where some principles of democratic secularism maintain. It is still true of Sidon that political solutions can be found for political problems, whereas outside that "canton" it is impossible to achieve any semblance of inter-communal balance without a developed sensitivity towards confessional demands.

Sidon has become a miniature version of what west Beirut once was — journalists can operate freely and without interference, local and foreign humanitarian organisations are busy with projects, while different confessions, different political persuasions and mixed nationalities coexist in some kind of harmony.

Sidon has become a miniature version of what west Beirut once was — journalists can operate freely and without interference, local and foreign humanitarian organisations are busy with projects, while different confessions, different political persuasions and mixed nationalities co-exist in some kind of harmony.

How long this will remain the case is the subject of much speculation: several incidents have occurred this year, including the placing of a car bomb in Sidon's crowded souk and the harassment of individual Christians, which have so far been contained. The recent outbreak of fighting between Amal and Palestinian from Mich Mich and Ain Al Hilweh camps can only have fuelled fears that the storm surging outside Sidon's confines cannot fail to engulf Sidon itself, as it did in the fighting in March and April 1985. In the vibrant status quo that makes up multi-confessional Sidon, there are a number of weak spots that

could easily rupture the complex web of interests.

First, in the Christian villages east of Sidon some 12,000 of the original 60,000 inhabitants have returned after having been driven from their homes last year. Their rejection of the border strip/Jezzine "canton" as a solution to their problem represents a significant nationalist statement. However, if the fighting around Qrayah, Jinsayah and Ain Dlib turns these Christian villages into a frontline between Amal and the Palestinians, the position of villagers will become untenable and they could lead an exodus of Christians from both Sidon town and the other villages to Jezzine, for want of any other alternative.

Not only would this destroy the main current example of Christian-Muslim co-existence in Lebanon, it would also seriously damage the standing of Father Salim Ghazal, Greek-Catholic archbishop-elect of Sidon, and architect of the Christians' return to their villages. Father Salim is an important influence among the Christian churches with his solid adherence to a democratic, secular philosophy.

The second potential weak spot is the critical state of relations between the Palestinians and Amal. Whatever one makes of the claims and counter claims about the extension of influence of Yasser Arafat's men in Lebanon, the situation for Palestinian civilians in the south has never been worse. Palestinians fleeing from Tyre report that an estimated 500-700 Palestinian men have been rounded up from Tyre and surrounding villages and taken away blindfolded by Amal. Nobody knows what their fate will be. There are now very few Palestinians living outside the three main camps of Bass, Rashidiyah and Borj ash-Shemali — very often families have been given a matter of minutes to leave their homes by armed Amal groups. At least 250 families have made their way to Sidon and northwards to Wadi Zeini with what few possessions they could muster, most having had their menfolk arrested. Reports of the torture of both men and women abound.

The ostensible reason for Fatah opening the fighting against Amal-held positions in Sidon was to gain some purchase over Amal fighters in the south, given their continuing siege of Rashidiyah

and their overt intention of removing the Palestinian presence from the south. However, the Palestinian push sets in motion destructive waves beyond the framework of its military achievements. The military operation in Sidon has been supported principally by Fatah and the DFLP and opposed by the Syrian-backed Salvation Front. The Palestinian unity often exhibited during the sieges of the camps in Beirut does not exist in Sidon, and is therefore open to interference from the Lebanese/Syrian political consensus, which is broadly in support of the Salvation Front.

While Palestinian inter-community relations are strained, the position of Sidon's Shi'ite community, some 10 per cent of Sidon's population, is also a tragic one. Will they be tempted to join Amal's call for support and open up a separate front against the Palestinian camps from the predominantly Shi'ite quarter of Sidon adjoining Ain Al Hilweh, or will they act principally as citizens of Sidon and act with the Sidon consensus? Given the strategic importance of the road through Sidon connecting the Shi'ite suburbs of Beirut with their homeland in the south, it is unlikely that the Shi'ites in Sidon will act in a way that might jeopardise this lifeline.

The third, and perhaps most critical factor determining Sidon's future well-being is the continued preeminence of Mustapha Saad as spiritual and political leader in Sidon. It is strange that a Sunni Muslim leader, hardly a confession that enjoys ascendancy in Lebanon at the moment, and head of a rag-tag militia should be central to maintaining the status quo in Sidon. Yet for the time being, local analysts see all political interests converging in Mustapha Saad as head of the Popular Nasserite Organisation for the following reasons. First, since the attempt on his life in January 1985, which left him with horrific facial scarring, Mustapha Saad has become as popular among the Sunni community as was his father, Marouf Saad. This has enabled him to act as a cohesive and unifying figure for the Sunnis in Sidon, without posing as a threat to other communities. Indeed he has taken practical steps to ensure their safety. Second, his vocal anti-Israeli, pro-Palestinian stance has set him squarely at the

head of the Lebanese National Movement and brought broad support from the better trained Palestinian fighters for his own militia. Third, he has cultivated a political environment which has allowed both the Communists and other left groups, as well as the Islamic groups, to operate freely in Sidon within specific parameters, and these constituencies thus see his future linked with their own. Fourth, there are strong links between the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist party (PSP) and the Nasserites in Sidon, much stronger than the mere marriage of convenience between Amal and the PSP in Beirut. The roots of the PSP/Nasserite alliance are both personal and strategic — Kamal Jumblatt and Marouf Saad were close friends. At the same time, the Nasserite militia is made up of Sunni Muslims from the mountain villages of Barja and Shahim, which fall within the PSP "canton."

However, sceptics in Sidon argue that the city cannot withstand the pressures around it and is merely the last brick in the wall standing in the way of the final dismemberment and cantonisation of Lebanon.

One factor that will surely determine Mustapha Saad's fate is the political will of the Syrians. Whilst generally supporting the Syrian line, Saad has shown his independence on more than one occasion and found himself nudged by his more overtly pro-Syrian younger brother Usama, and the parliamentary deputy for Sidon, Nazih Al Bizry. But for the time being at least, neither Usama Saad nor Nazih Al Bizry command the same level of local support.

While Mustapha Saad can continue to act as an honest broker in Sidon, the city will remain at the eye of the storm, an oasis for the different communities and varied political groupings. However, sceptics in Sidon argue that the city cannot withstand the pressures around it and is merely the last brick in the wall standing in the way of the final dismemberment and cantonisation of Lebanon — Middle East International, London.

LETTERS

Maintaining neutrality

To the Editor:

DUE to the irrelevant reference to Turkey enumerated among some other countries claimed to be "conducting secret negotiations with Iran, in the hope of securing a foothold in that country" in the editorial entitled "misplaced hopes" which appeared in Jordan Times' issue of Nov. 17, 1986, I am compelled to write this letter to put the record straight.

As is known, despite the assertions of the so-called reliable reports quoted in the editorial, Turkey, since the beginning of Iran-Iraq war more than six years ago, had consistently adhered to its policy of maintaining strict neutrality in this war. By virtue of this fact, Turkey had been elected to the "Islamic Peace Committee" of the Organisation of Islamic Conference entrusted with the reconciling of warring sides to help end the war.

In this respect, I would like to quote here below an excerpt from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Vahit Halefoglu's speech delivered at the 41st Session of the General Assembly meetings of the United Nations on Oct. 2, 1986, which reflects the policy stand of Turkey pertaining to the Iran-Iraq war.

"During the past year, the war between Iran and Iraq has escalated and caused further devastation and human suffering. We are deeply distressed by this tragic war between our two neighbours and friends. We continue to maintain strict neutrality as well as our dialogue with both sides and remain available for any assistance we can provide for a peaceful solution."

Also, the foreign minister in his address to the Planning and Budget Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly during a debate on the 1987 budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Nov. 14, 1986 has stated the following views concerning the Iran-Iraq war:

"During the recent visits of the prime minister of Turkey to both Iraq and Iran, Turkey's determination to pursue an impartial policy in the war has been expressed to our contacts in Iraq and Iran. In the course of our contacts with the statesmen of Iraq and Iran on several occasions we have clearly expressed Turkey's readiness in assisting to bring the war to an end and to establish peace, if both parties wish us to do so. This week, I have also reiterated our readiness in exerting every possible effort for this purpose during the meeting of Islamic Peace Committee held in Jeddah. However, I would like to express with regret that all efforts aimed to find a common basis for reconciliation have unfortunately yielded no results so far. At the same time, we have observed with dismay that deliberate rumours circulated by certain circles aiming to expose Turkey either as taking side with one of the warring parties or as inclining to one side's interests have from time to time been taken seriously and even have been inappropriately elaborated by the parties. I would like to express once again, in your audience, that these rumours which sometimes also appear in the press are devoid of any foundation. Guided by its national interests, Turkey will pursue its policy of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war."

In the light of your newspaper's always appreciated factual correctness and impartial attitude, I feel duty bound to bring to your knowledge the policy stand of the Turkish government vis-a-vis Iran-Iraq war.

Semih Belen
Ambassador,
Turkish Embassy,
Amman.

West German cartoonists give a cynical appraisal of urban architecture

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A tiny prism of rays penetrates a dark, large heavily-brick building. A man cowers in a corner, holding an umbrella to protect himself from the "sun". He is a modern city-dweller; he is not used to the sunlight.

Two huge skyscrapers flexing their muscles are standing between scattered, small and vulnerable houses.

These are two of the cartoons displayed at "the city and German cartoons" exhibition which opened on Wednesday. The exhibition displays a large number of cartoons from 1887 to 1985 — humorously criticising the architecture of cities in West Germany.

The exhibition, which was opened at the University of Jordan by the president of the university, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, and by the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Herwig Bartels, expresses some German artists' views on

modern architecture in German cities. Many of the artists, who are mostly architects and designers themselves, express their ideas in a cynical manner to show their disapproval of the architecture and its effect on people living in the cities.

The exhibition, which will last until Nov. 25, is jointly organised by the Goethe Institute in Amman and the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan, and the Stuttgart-based Institute of Cultural Relations. The director of the Goethe Institute in Amman, Mr. Adolf Perner, said that the aim of this display is to give the Jordanian people an idea of modern German urban architecture and its effect on humans.

A professor of architecture at the university told the Jordan Times that this exhibition is of great interest to Jordanian architects and architecture students because it may teach them how modern architecture could have a negative effect on cities. "We are now imitating the

West in their oversized and grotesque buildings; whereas how the West is regretting what they have done in their architecture. We do not want to imitate the mistakes of Western architecture, while they are going back to old traditional building. This subtle and humorous display could give architecture students a positive insight into this problem we are facing in Jordan. I just hope this could be a lesson for our future architects," said the professor.

Lecture, films

A part of the exhibition was a lecture on "urban settlements in the Federal Republic of Germany" delivered by Dr. Fikry Asaad, a professor of architecture at the University of Jordan. He talked about the impact of industrialisation on the architecture of cities in Germany. The lecture was accompanied by the slide-show.

Two films were also screened as a part of the programme. The first, entitled "Walter Gropius," was about the German architect's accomplishments. Gropius, a West German innovator of the Bauhaus school of design, a movement that was born at the beginning of this century, is considered a very prominent art historian, sociologist, designer, and architectural philosopher. The film tells the story of the man's life, and particularly about the achievement of his work and his influence of architecture all over the world.

The second film, "Space for Living," is a portrait of Professor Gunter Behnisch, the architect who designed the Olympic site in Munich. This architect was identified in the film as a "democratic architect, whose buildings reveal openness, freedom, social responsibility, and sympathy." He has become famous not only for the Olympic site but also for the schools, sports facilities, old people's homes, pedestrian precincts, and parliamentary buildings he and his staff have built.

A new look at the familiar

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

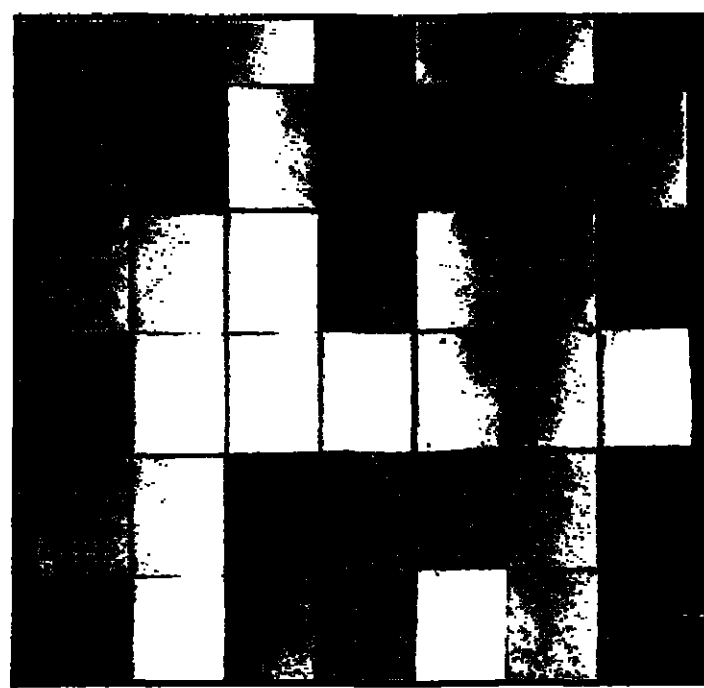
AMMAN — At the Petra Bank Art Gallery this week is a small but exciting exhibition of three dimensional artworks of the kind rarely seen in Jordan. Held in cooperation with the German Embassy and the Goethe Institute here in Amman the exhibition, entitled "Multiples," consists mostly of everyday objects — foam, nails, mirrors, light-switches — arranged in such a way that we are forced to see them anew, to see them in terms other than that of their function and in so doing we are made aware of their many unsuspected aesthetic qualities.

The concept behind "Multiples" is not a new one; the idea of reproducing sculptures and bas-reliefs goes back to Hellenistic times when there was a passion for collecting terra cotta figurines. Over the centuries, reproducing art by printing or by casting etc., became an accepted and respected method of allowing more people access to good art. In 1914, however, Marcel Duchamp challenged that concept of "Good Art" by declaring that a bottle dryer, the front wheel of a bicycle and an earthenware urinal to be also works of art. This stimulated a reevaluation of artistic criteria and values which in turn ushered in a new era of artistic vision and creativity.

'New era'

It is from this new "new era" that the exhibition at the Petra Bank Art Gallery has its roots. By the late sixties and early seventies it reached its climax when all manner of daily objects from bricks to soap dishes, from metal rods and television sets could be seen row upon row in all the major museums in Europe and the States.

It was at about this time that the master of the art of reproduction, Vaserly, made his quintessential definition. "The Multiple," he said, "is... an original which at the moment of its crea-



Department store object — light

tion does not appear as one but as a hundred fold embodiment. This is probably the most accurate definition. In every work created there has always been an original and up to now, this original was the final aim. On the other hand, for me, the original is only the starting point."

"Multiples" he goes on to say, "have made a two-fold contribution. On the one hand, they

most representative of its genre,

has to be Rolf Glasmeier's light switches. Row upon row of the large rectangular switches are arranged so that together they form a moveable surface which reflects the light in ripples, whose waves and directions can be altered according to whim. In his statement in the accompanying catalogue, Glasmeier makes an interesting assertion. "I do not develop any forms" he says, "I use forms developed by others. I arrange my elements in series. This is the only problem I have. I do not produce 'Art'. 'Art' is made by the viewer, I prepare the programme."

Mirrors, lenses

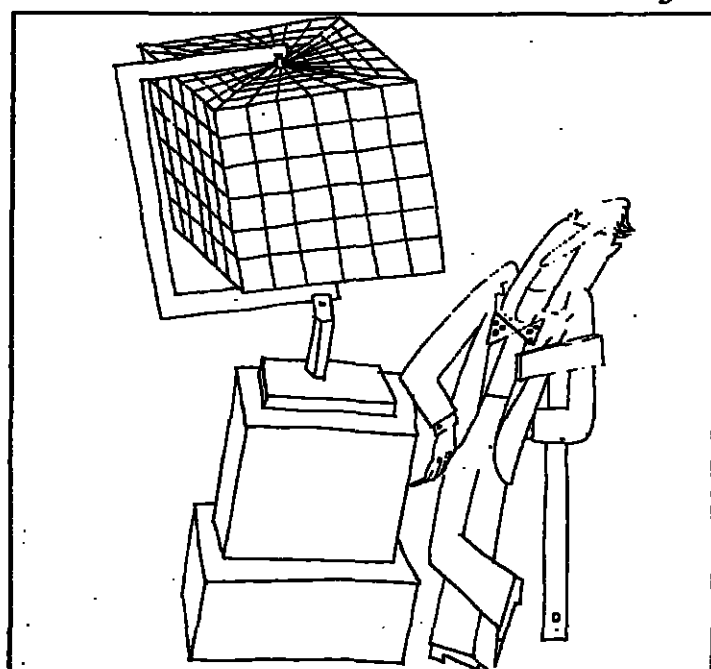
Other very interesting pieces include the lovely mirrors and lenses of Adolf Luther which sparkle and reflect the light like the all seeing eyes of a huge insect, the electrostatic image in soot by Erich Reusch, the wonderfully organic foam sculptures of Ferdinand Spindel and, finally, the macabre huge double ended foam fingers that lie bound and crushed between plates of glass. The exhibition runs until Nov. 29.

ART REVIEW

embody the possibility of reproducing works of art in large numbers without impairing the quality and at the same time they destroy the completely untenable myth of the uniqueness and inimitability of a work of art. The existence of Multiples creates a concrete situation which permits art to go the streets, penetrate into the cities and into nature to influence human consciousness not at the level of a privileged elite but at the mass level."

Light switches

One of the best "Multiples" at the exhibition, and perhaps the



'An architect's view of the world' as depicted in a cartoon on West German architecture

Amman's stairs — links between old and new, homes and work

Text and Photos by
Josephine Zannari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Old Amman, those cluttered quarters climbing the hills surrounding the downtown area, retain not only the grace and charm of a prosperous merchant town but also incorporate the utilities of a pre-automobile age — a time of tranquility in which life moved at a careful, measured pace. There is no fitter indication of this now forgotten age than the hundreds of stairs which rise systematically over the crowded mountainsides.

Their variety is as great as their number. Some imposing stairs lead directly upwards, cutting straight through the hillside and may consist of more than a hundred steps. Others flow, river-like, from hill peaks, twisting through crowded banks of buildings. Many are private, short groups of steps leading abruptly to an aged rusted iron gate or a powerful wooden front door. There is no estimate of the

number of stairs in Amman but clearly they must have been used by a great number of people from the times of the re-establishment of Amman, until the mass introduction of the motor car. Even today, many service taxi routes end at the head of stairway, enabling pedestrians easy access to Al Balad.

Traditionally, the steps linked the urban quarters higher on the hillside with the central business district on the valley floor below, vertically connecting the horizontal road network. Jabal Weibdeh, Jabal Amman and the Citadel end of Jabal Hussein, each have extensive networks of stairs capable of quickly pouring early morning workers into their respective shops and offices below.

The stairs themselves grew out of donkey tracks of a still earlier era of Amman. The trails were used to ferry milk, eggs, charcoal and other daily household necessities from the downtown market. Gradually the stairs were built, enhancing ease of access

between the two levels. Closer to the older areas, stairs are often stone slabs broadly laid across the hillside. Newer stairs are concrete. Both ways, aged and worn by millions of feet steps, the stone weathers slowly in the centre first forming time-honoured dips or depressions bowing to the passing of the years. Concrete tumbles off in chunks, each segment rolling away to the ground below leaving a scarred, and sometimes dangerous step behind.

Is this extensive network of arteries abandoned? Absolutely not. Early in the morning comes the first wave of commuters, workers who stumble off the service taxi and walk swiftly down the stairs to their awaiting workshops dotted throughout the commercial district. When the sun is higher, neatly-dressed shop girls followed by bustling clerks and plump bank workers meander to their offices, stragglers rushing out of the service taxi behind them. Later still come the housewives armed with plastic shopping bags. Peddlers line the edges of the lower stairways displaying small suitcases packed with cheap Hong Kong watches, brushes, socks and sometimes even exotic Indian perfume. Others sell round *kaik* piled into high triangles and one elderly man stands at the foot of a central downtown stairway every day with a tray of coconut and pistachio sweets, probably made the night before by an elderly wife.

Weibdeh's network

Individually, each quarter has its own tributaries of stairways. The most beautiful are undoubtedly in Jabal Weibdeh. The steep gradient of the hillside enforces an oval pattern in the road network which girds the Jabal. Stairs inter-connect higher and lower roads, from Shera Khansa, a crumbling cement stairway known as *Daraj Sa'ad* drops past old homes of high arched windows and miniature hanging gardens of Babylon. After 76 steps it reaches Sa'ade Street, a delightful narrow road resplendent in aged buildings with tiny protruding balconies. The stairs of the *Madrasa Bilal Ben Rabah* further down the road is

strewn with jasmine tumbling over rusted iron gates. Its 87 perilous steps lead to a still lower road and thus to the *Katha* steps and downtown. The *Daraj Katha*, (named after a nearby shop) keeps the tranquility of the higher steps of residential Weibdeh. It winds past small shops, street peddlers, food vendors and at the lower end where the stairs tumble unknowing pedestrians into the heart of downtown, a now rather shabby hotel.

A maze of steps from Martam Street connects Prince Mohammad Street with the First Circle. Houses below the road level are entered through rough, hewn cement stairs. Those of greater consequence and width link the two main roads, whilst smaller less proud stairs climb uphill into densely crowded residential quarters. These are steps of ample surprise, almost impossible to follow, a turn here, a tributary there, through an imposing gate way and ending after a short swift climb in a narrow street of magnificent, yet

faded, villas.

Business-like

Shera Asfour on the other side of the First Circle has stairs of a completely different character, aged business-like steps which travel straight, turn abruptly and narrow finely before reaching the edge of the downtown. The steps pass small offices with brown and cream geometrically tiled floors and high wooden doors sagging with age and an innumerable number of coats of cream paint. Details are singularly contradictory, an old building so dilapidated as to be uninhabitable houses a new white and blue photocopy machine, glimpsed through an arched, glassless window.

Amman's steps and stairs are quite simply wonderful, an inner world of labyrinth spectacle, total Arab charm and never ending surprise. My favourite, a worn cement tourist staircase climbing to the Citadel, ends quite calmly in mid-air.



Stairs in Asfour Street, First Circle. Worn by many feet, they climb up between old homes and new offices.



Stone stairs and an iron stairway leading to a house in Martam Street, near First Circle.

Randa Habib's

Touristic attractions!

THE vast majority of employees manning reception desks at hotels in Jordan are efficient, kind and helpful. Unfortunately, however, the behaviour of some of them at times blackens the good name of their colleagues through unacceptable practices.

The following case is a typical example of how this kind of attitude could damage the reputation of Jordan's hospitality. A young Jordanian lady who has been married for eleven years to a British citizen, and who holds a British passport, recently checked in at a hotel, just outside Amman, with her British husband. At the front desk, a suspicious employee looked at the couple and, before giving them a double room, asked with authority to see their passports. This is normal procedure and the couple handed over their passports. The lady is registered in her British passport under her maiden name together with her family name after marriage and her marital status is also clearly mentioned, but for some reasons, the front desk employee of that hotel insisted on having proof that the couple were married. Apparently, he considered that the passport was not enough, and he asked for the marriage certificate. The couple were not carrying the document, as after eleven years of marriage they didn't feel it necessary to have their marriage certificate with them at all times.

Falling to convince the stubborn employee that they were married and that they wished to have a double room, they finally gave up and asked for two single rooms.

What do you think was the answer they got? "Sorry we have no single rooms." Obviously the front desk employee was trying to be shrewd.

And we say we want to become a touristic country!

Jerusalem 'truce talks' break up

(Continued from page 1)

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) group.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has appealed for international support for Palestinians in the face of the Jewish violence in Jerusalem, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

WAFA said Tuesday night a

PLO Executive Committee

communicated the appeal in

Tunis to the United Nations,

non-aligned and Islamic states, as

well as the Arab League and the

Organisation of African Unity.

It called for support for

Palestinians facing "organised

Israeli state terrorism" both inside

and outside the occupied Arab

territories.

Residential areas hit in Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

retaliate against the

Syrian-backed Palestinian forces

in the mountains if the shelling did

not halt.

Beirut Radio reported that PSP

militiamen were patrolling the

Shouf to make sure the PNSF

forces did not open fire again.

Mr. Berri, Walid Junblatt,

Amal's ally in the Lebanese civil

war, and other leftist Lebanese

leaders met for four hours with

Mr. Khaddam, architect of Syria's

efforts to pacify Lebanon, to try to

work out a ceasefire in Beirut.

"We haven't been able to agree

on anything so far," Mr. Junblatt

said when asked late Tuesday if a

settlement was near.

In Tyre, police said one Amal

militiaman and two Palestinians

were wounded on Wednesday

when fierce rocket and mortar

bomb exchanges flared at the

Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the

city.

The camp was besieged by

scores of Amal fighters, they said.

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English gain on Soviets at Dubai chess Olympiad

DUBAI (R) — A star-studded Soviet team suffered a setback in the 27th chess Olympiad Wednesday when it was held to a draw by Yugoslavia in a fifth-round match.

The English consolidated its ranking as the world's number two chess power by edging out third seed Hungary.

Yugoslavian "supergrandmaster" Ljubomir Ljubojevic recovered from a painful loss to Indonesia in fine style to beat former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union.

It was Karpov's first loss in an Olympiad since 1972, three years before he won the world title.

The Hungarians, the only team to finish ahead of the Soviets in recent decades, rested their top two players Wednesday.

Grandmasters Lajos Portisch and Zoltan Ribli took a break after their exertions against the Soviet Union Tuesday and the weakened squad never threatened the determined English.

Three games ended in draws while top board, grandmaster Tony Miles, slowly overcame Gylis Sax to clinch the match.

Cuba moved up into medal reckoning with a decisive victory over the tough Chinese.

Fifth-ranked United States dropped back after inching past Indonesia, who team continued to impress against strong opposition.

Lubosh Kavalek, a Czech-born grandmaster playing for the

United States, said the Indonesians "are very dangerous — they go berserk and one of them always scores."

Sixth-seeded Iceland moved back among the leaders with a convincing win over Finland.

Argentina advanced with a startling rout of the West Germans.

Scotland continued to gain a reputation as a rising force, overwhelming Mexico to move up the table.

The women's event saw the heavily favoured Soviets joined in the lead by China.

Though Eastern European nations have traditionally been the medal winners, China's rout of Romania confirmed that it poses the most serious threat to Soviet dominance.

Fourth-seeded England moved up to third place with a steady win over West Germany. The English still have to face the strongest teams.

The sixth round is scheduled to begin at 1100 GMT on Nov. 21, with Thursday the first free day of the event.

When play resumes, the top two seeds should meet, giving England a chance to test its skill against the fearsome Soviets.

Kasparov attacks FIDE

World chess champion Gari Kasparov accused the president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), Florencio Campomanes, Wednesday of abusing his power in a bid to gain re-election.

The latest outburst in a personal feud which has lasted more than two years arose over Campomanes' use of funds to bring delegates to the Olympiad in Dubai, where the election will be held in 10 days time.

Kasparov told reporters it was good for chess if free air tickets were used to help developing chess countries. But he added: "Campomanes used this, like all his previous acts, all FIDE power, for his own interests."

Relations between Kasparov and Campomanes have been bad since the FIDE president halted his marathon world championship match against Anatoly Karpov on the grounds that both players were exhausted after almost 50 games.

Kasparov, who had pulled back to 3-5 down in the contest of unlimited duration to six wins and later won the rematch, interpreted the decision as a rescue operation for the flagging Karpov.

Ahmed Abdullah Abu Hussein, official spokesman of the Olympiad organising committee, triggered the latest row with a statement to the Abu Dhabi daily Al Itihad about the air tickets.



AL NASR PULLS OFF UPSET: Bottom of the table Al Nasr defeated Al Qadisi 1-0 at Amman Stadium on Wednesday. In the photo, Al Nasr goalie Tawfiq Hassan dives to save the ball from the net, as Al Qadisi players Omar Al Qarra (left) and Imad Fawzi (12) converged on him. Al Nasr's Nidal Abdullat (11; partially obscured) protects the Al Nasr goal (Photo by Abu Siman)

West Ham eliminates Oxford

LONDON (AP) — Oxford United, which won last season's Milk Cup at Wembley, was bundled out of this year's competition — the newly-named Littlewoods Challenge Cup — by a late penalty, as it went down 1-0 at West Ham United.

Joining West Ham in the quarterfinal were Southampton, which edged Aston Villa 2-1, Arsenal, which downed Charlton Athletic 2-0 and Second Division Shrewsbury town, which beat Division Three Cardiff City 1-0.

West Ham's England international striker Tony Cottee scored the only goal of the game against Oxford Tuesday from the penalty spot nine minutes from time.

Oxford midfielder Les Phillips was sent off for arguing with the referee over the penalty award.

Three players were expelled at Southampton, where the home side recalled its England international goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, despite a thigh injury which kept him sidelined for his country's European Championship game against Yugoslavia last week.

Jimmy Case fired Southampton

ahead in the 17th minute and Colin Clarke bagged his 13th goal of the season to increase the home side's lead in the 64th. Four minutes later, Allan Evans converted a penalty for Villa.

Some 15 minutes from time, Southampton's Mark Dennis and Villa's Martin Keown were dismissed for an on-field flare-up and three minutes later, the visitor's Gary Williams was sent off for an off-the-ball incident.

English League leader Arsenal extended its unbeaten run to ten games as Charlton's Alan Curshley scored in his own net after five minutes and the home team's striker, Nial Quinn, headed a second in the 54th.

Shrewsbury's Northern Ireland international midfielder, Bernard McNally, pounced three minutes from time to end Cardiff's Cup run.

In the F.A. Cup first round replays, Wolverhampton Wanderers, one of Europe's top teams in the 1950s and now languishing in the English Fourth Division, struggled to hold part-timers Chorley 1-1 at its famous Molineux Stadium, and faces a second replay.

English and Aussie captains are a study in contrasts

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Allan Border, reflecting on Australia's "worst match for a long time," and Mike Gatting, savouring his first England triumph, presented a stark contrast in test cricket captains Wednesday.

Gatting was in buoyant mood after leading England to a seven-wicket win in the first match of the five-test ashes series, a result which ended a sequence of 11 tests without success in 1986.

Off-spinner John Emburey, who finished with five for 80, and all-rounder Phillip DeFreitas, with three for 62, captured the last five wickets between them as Australia crumbled from 243 for five overnight to 282 all out.

England, needing 75 to win, survived an uncertain start in which three wickets fell cheaply before opener Chris Broad and

David Gower sealed success at 77 for three 35 minutes after lunch on the first and final day.

Border, who has led Australia to only three victories in his 22 tests as captain, said: "We just don't know how to win yet. We played our worst match for a long time."

The Australian captain described his team's attitude as excellent.

England's success followed eight defeats and three draws tests and represented a personal high point for Gatting — his first win in six tests as captain.

While England reflect on fast bowler Graham Dilley's most significant performance in his 23 tests and the effective fast-medium bowling of emerging all-rounder DeFreitas, Australia is left with a question mark over its pace attack.

Alen closes on British rally lead

LIVERPOOL (R) — Markko Alen fought back the pain as he attempted a late victory charge in the Royal Automobile Club Round-Britain Rally.

The 35-year-old is taking pain killers for an injury sustained when he spun off on the first day of the event on Sunday. The seatbelt on his Lancia dug into the ribs and left him with severe bruising.

Alen, regarded as one of the most determined competitors in rallying, battled back Wednesday to within six seconds of leader, fellow Finn and world champion Timo Salonen in his Peugeot 205 after 38 of the 45 specials stages.

Overnight he had trailed by nine seconds.

Wednesday the 95 survivors headed south from Liverpool on the final leg through the Welsh forests.

Alen's teammate, Mikael Ericsson of Sweden, clung on to third place but was almost a minute slower than Salonen, while the Peugeot of world championship leader Juha Kankkunen remained fourth, over four minutes off the lead after ending up in a ditch Tuesday.

Britain's Tony Pond moved up from sixth to fifth place in his metro GR4 ahead of Mikael Sundstrom's Peugeot.

Egypt's National favoured for Cup

CAIRO (R) — National of Egypt is the form favourite to make virtually certain of winning the African Cup-Winners' Soccer Cup when it takes on Gabon's Sogara in the first leg of the final on Friday.

The Cairo side boasts Egypt's most glittering array of footballers and is expected to be roared on by at least 70,000 fans in the majestic Cairo Stadium.

But the real incentive for red-shirted National will be the prospect of winning the trophy for a third time in a row and keeping it outright, a feat which has never been achieved since the competition was inaugurated 11 years ago.

Manager Taha Ismail, who took over the club this season, says he wants to make the away leg in Gabon on Dec. 7 a foregone conclusion by building up an unassailable lead on Friday.

But Ismail has the men to do the job and should have little trouble finding a replacement for star striker Hosam Hassan, suspended for three matches by the Cairo-based African Football Confederation.

Hassan, who has earned a reputation as an opportunist in front of goal during his short spell with the club, was penalised for an off-ball brawl in the second leg of the semi-final against Ismaili of Egypt.

Sogara clinched a berth in the final by winning 3-0 at home. National's path to the final was far less impressive.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Karak inaugurates new sports complex

KARAK (Petra) — In celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Karak city's Governor Salem Qudat, on Wednesday, inaugurated the first phase of a new sports complex. The first stage of the complex, which is estimated to cost JD 130,000, comprises a stadium, capable of accommodating 7000 spectators, a football playground built in accordance with international standards, and the infrastructure of other sporting facilities.

Rebels suffer 1st defeat in S. Africa

STELLENBOSCH, South Africa (R) — Australia's rebel cricketers suffered the first defeat of their ban-breaking tour of South Africa when they were beaten by a Boland Invitation XI. Set a 199-run target in a floodlit finale to the day-night match Tuesday, the Cape Province side squeezed home with five balls to spare in its 50 overs-a-side match. The matchwinner was number eight batsman Danie Du Toit who bludgeoned an unbeaten 65 from 48 balls in 58 minutes.

Bayern Munich knocked out of Cup

BONN (R) — Defending champion Bayern Munich was knocked out of the West German Cup by little-fancied Fortuna Duesseldorf. Bayern, eight times winners of the trophy, crumbled in the final 20 minutes of the third round clash on Tuesday after managing to contain the home side, currently second from bottom of the First Division, throughout the first half.

Family considers lost yachtsman dead

PARIS (AP) — Atlantic air and sea searches for missing French racing yachtsman Loic Caradee have been abandoned, the defence ministry announced Wednesday. Caradee has not been seen since his giant Catamaran Royale, which had been leading the Route Du Rhum singlehanded transatlantic race, was found capsized last Saturday between the Portuguese coast and the Azores Islands. The dinghy was missing but all the other survival gear was on board.

Australia IV upset in Cup

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Taking advantage of light winds, South Australia pulled off the first major upset of the America's Cup defender trials Wednesday with a victory over Australia IV.

The defeat left Australia IV nine points behind front-running Kookaburra III as the second double round-robin series ended.

The loss also dropped Australia IV into third place, one point behind Kookaburra II.

Both Kookaburra's were winners Wednesday. Kookaburra III, skippered by Iain Murray, downed winless Steak'n Kidney, while Peter Gilmour piloted Kookaburra II to a win over Australia III.

Light breezes, which began at 12 knots and never freshened to more than 15 knots, were perfect for South Australia, as the Adelaide-based boat posted its first victory over any of the top three challengers. It previously had three wins over Steak'n Kidney and one over Australia III.

Despite the victory, rumours that South Australia, has been sold and the crew given notice.

Project director Graham Ferrett denied the report and said a complete statement on the future status of the syndicate would be made later.

The defeat was a rude shock for the Alan Bond Syndicate, which wrested the Cup away from the U.S. in 1983 and had been heavily favoured to be the defender. But

the Taskforce '87 Limited Syndicate, which has entered both Kookaburra's, has stolen the spotlight.

South Australia, skippered by John Savage with Phil Thompson at the helm, was behind two seconds at the start, but had taken a 27-second lead by the time the two boats reached the first windward mark.

Skipper Colin Beasly managed to cut the deficit to 10 seconds on the downhill run, but on the next beat to windward, South Australia found a 15-degree favoured windshift which placed it 77 seconds ahead at the mark.

It was also reported that a revolutionary new canal keel has been fitted to Australia IV. The reports, which appeared in Australian newspapers, claimed that a vertical fin had been fitted between the front edge of the keel and the hull.

The reports also claimed that key crewmen aboard Australia IV were dissatisfied with the addition and have demanded that it be removed.

Kookaburra III had little trouble, beating Steak'n Kidney by 3:18. Kookaburra II won by 24 seconds over Australia III, the world 12-metre champion.

The victories left Kookaburra III with 29 points, nine ahead of Kookaburra II and 10 in front of Australia IV. Australia III has 10. South Australia 8 and Steak'n Kidney is still winless after two rounds.

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THE REPORT

(Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 4:15, 8:30, 10:30



PLAZA

THE REPORT

(Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



RAGHADAN

THE REPORT

(Arabic)

Performances 12:15, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4155/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3820/25	Canadian dollars
	2.0125/35	West German marks
	2.2735/45	Dutch guilders
	1.6753/63	Swiss francs
	41.83/88	Belgian francs
	6.5860/5910	French francs
	1394/1395	Italian lire
	162.98/163.08	Japanese yen
	6.9475/9525	Swedish crowns
	7.5560/5610	Norwegian crowns
	7.6025/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	391.70/392.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices closed sharply lower after a relatively quiet session and a mid-morning rally attempt with the market easing in response to the 43-point fall on Wall Street Tuesday and weaker sterling, dealers said.

The FTSE 100 share index dipped below the 1,600 level and at 1530 GMT was quoted 19.2 points down at 1,598.3 following a lower opening on Wall Street, still reacting to the Ivan Boesky insider trading scandal.

At 1500 GMT sterling had lost three basis points in trade weighted terms to 67.9, compared with its record low of 67.1 reached last month.

Among the leaders, Ranks Hovis McDougall ended 3p up at 266 after much better than expected annual profits of £90.8 million, against last year's £70.8 million. In dull breweries Whitbread shed 10p to 260, despite slightly better than anticipated interim profits of £79.8 million.

Elsewhere, ICI lost 13p to 1,039 and Becton 4p to 424 ahead of its interim Thursday, expected to show profits of some £155 million. Cable and Wireless, also due to publish results Thursday, gained 3p to 307.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 20, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day when you are able to do whatever is necessary to improve conditions beneath your own roof and where property matters are concerned.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Family matters need your attention. Have guests in who can do something nice for you and yours.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to see persons who are close to your home and deal with neighborhood businesses more.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Monetary affairs are vital today. Your good judgment can easily increase your abundance.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are highly magnetic at this time and can acquire almost anything you want.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Show your devotion to the one you love quietly and you get excellent rewards. Show your will power, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can get ahead faster via the good auspices of persons you know who are sentimental. Show your appreciation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day to be out in public and make a fine impression on others. Show some talent to a prominent person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) New obtainable opportunities are coming your way, so seize as many of them as you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your love for you mate is best expressed in tangible ways. Meet your responsibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Those you want to deal with are highly emotional today. Wear a big smile and the world is your oyster now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An ideal day to add color and charm to your surroundings. Have a heart-to-heart talk with a fellow worker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can have much luck connected with any amusement plans you have made. This could make you more popular, too.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Both men and women are likely now to be in a receptive mood and to be helpful in whatever concerns both your personal and emotional interests.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Have a discussion with family ties about mutual interests and be more aware of problems connected with them.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to sit down with an associate and see where you are both headed. Take it easy tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are able to gain more benefits from whatever projects you are engaged in, so gather them in.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are able to enjoy recreations that you like the most, be they athletic or romantic.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study your personal desires early and then you can get a family tie to assist you in gaining them.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you are understanding with new acquaintances they can be turned into fast and devoted friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Look to individuals of both sexes who can assist you in some vital business project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have an advanced course you want to follow, but handle it from a different angle for best results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can pay bills that have been worrying you for some time. Do whatever your mate desires.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Have a meeting with partners and plan a new enterprise wisely so that it can meet with success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can get a whole pile of work behind you if you apply yourself seriously. Take time for your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Become more romantic with your beloved and the evening can be a highly pleasurable time together.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will easily gain the help of higher-ups for any enterprise which he, or she, becomes involved in. Teach this one not to hurt the feelings of others which could easily result in spoiling the friendship and losing benefits. Give a business-type education.

Amman Financial Market regains prominence

By Naser AlAmad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Recent reductions in interest rates on the Jordanian dinar are leading to a shift of funds to the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as investors seek a higher rate of return on their investments.

To enable potential investors to reduce their risk and maximise earnings from share trading, the following guidelines might prove to be of value to avoid common mistakes and ensure continued success.

According to a financial broker at the AFM, many people miscalculate through their financial dealings because they expect too much too soon, panic at the first sign of trouble and jump into deals without any idea of what they are really doing.

Holding on to a loser:

No one can invest without running into some unprofitable deals. The solution to this problem is to cut losses by getting out before a losing deal gets worse. Some people find it hard to assume a loss and see it as an embarrassing defeat.

They continue to wait for a turnaround hoping to break even when it may take years for a rebound to occur. As a result, an investor ends up tying his funds at

a time when it could be put to work elsewhere.

Hanging on to a stock that turns out to be a real loser will undermine an otherwise profitable investment portfolio.

Overdiversifying:

One key to smart investments is to spread the risk among a number of shares and stocks.

Some people go too far in diversifying. It is true that nobody wants to put all of his eggs in one basket but it is also true that no one wants so many baskets which he can't keep track of them.

Looking behind:

Past performance may give a clue to how well a stock will perform in the future, but the economic and business factors

always change and those factors that lie ahead determine the future outlook of the stock.

By choosing a stock, a person might look at the most recent economic business mirror, but it is just as important not to wait until the future is here.

People say they want to see a light at the end of the investment tunnel but sometime they wait until they are out of the tunnel and that is often too late.

Too quick to escape:

Some investors are too slow to get out of an investment while others do it too fast. Many stock owners panic at the first sign of trouble at a firm. They sell too fast causing a deterioration in the stock price.

If the problem reflects an industry-wide deterioration you should carefully consider if any

single firm has a chance of pulling out of trouble. It seems that investors react too fast to today's headlines.

Unrealistic expectations:

"Undiscovered rare opportunities" are not limited and can be easily detected in the stock market especially when a stock price seems unreasonably low priced or its return is extraordinary high. There is usually a reason and it often means there is a hidden risk. Rumours are usually worth every minute of your time to hear them and weigh them realistically.

Knowledgeable investment:

The AFM is full of experts in many industries. They know as much or more about the industry, its suppliers, its customers and its

business more than the financial market analysts or brokers.

Yet, people invest in stocks and shares because they hear hot rumours about company without acquiring deep insight into its activities.

Setting goals:

Unless you have a precise objective, it is hard to know how much money you will be investing in the financial tools. Those who need funds in the short term should not lock themselves into an investment or they will end up liquidating their investment at a "selling" price which is much lower than a "buying price" thereby incurring a loss, especially when the financial market is in the stage of recession.

Coordinating investment with anticipated needs for funds is a priority task for any investor.

American envoy urges joint ventures between U.S. and Israeli companies

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, urged Israeli companies Tuesday to form joint ventures with American firms to attract U.S. investment and increase Israeli access to American markets.

Mr. Yeutter was responding to a call for increased U.S. investment in Israel from Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon. Sharon on Monday urged the U.S. government to provide long-term, low-interest loans for Americans wishing to invest in Israel.

Mr. Yeutter told a news con-

ference Israel could boost private U.S. investment in the country through joint ventures which would also help Israeli companies in marketing and distributing their products in the U.S.

"Through joint ventures, markets will be opened on both sides," Mr. Yeutter said. He cited the example of an Israeli-U.S. joint venture to produce a drip-irrigation system which has been successfully marketed in the United States.

Israel has joint-venture arrangements with some 140 U.S. firms.

"It's a competitive world. In

some ways the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Israel will have to compete loudly and aggressively to attract capital from the private sector," Mr. Yeutter added.

Mr. Yeutter, in Israel for Israel-America trade week, said he had met with Sharon and other Israeli leaders to discuss the year-old free trade agreement between the two countries.

Sharon told reporters Tuesday the agreement had helped increase Israeli exports to the U.S. from \$1.5 billion in the first nine months of 1985 to nearly \$1.9 billion for the same period this year.

Soviet parliament approves 1987 budget

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's parliament, the Supreme Soviet, Wednesday approved a budget for 1987 which is part of a Kremlin blueprint for improving living standards and the quality of individual production.

The two-chamber body, on the third and last day of its winter session, is also considering a new law allowing some free enterprise in the service sector — a major departure from past Soviet practice.

The budget, outlined by Finance Minister Boris Gostev on Monday, includes a growth target

of 4.1 per cent for gross national income, the Soviet equivalent of gross national product, against an expected 3.9 per cent rise this year.

Industrial output is planned to increase by 4.4 per cent compared with the 1986 target of 4.3 per cent.

The budget also provides for defence expenditure of 20.2 billion roubles (\$29.3 billion) next year, or 4.6 per cent of the overall budget in 1987 — the same percentage as in 1985 and 1986.

Full details of the new law, eagerly awaited by many Soviet citizens, have not emerged. But the official media have made clear it will legalise at least some of the widespread black economic activities which the state has theoretically condemned but tacitly accepted.

Another major bank joins Petra Bank's traveller cheque programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iktisat Bankasi Turk A.S. will shortly be receiving its stock of Petra Bank issued U.S. dollar Visa travellers cheques under an agreement signed earlier this summer with Petra Bank. Iktisat Bankasi with assets of over 20 billion Turkish lire will be selling these travellers cheques in its 16 branches throughout Turkey.

Petra Bank commenced its sales of traveller cheques in 1984, making it the 37th Visa member throughout the world to issue U.S. dollar denominated cheques. World-wide sales in its first year of operation reached nearly

\$20 million. This sales figure is expected to nearly double by end 1986.

International statistics show that Visa traveller cheques' penetration in Jordan is over 80 per cent of the market.

Petra Bank's travellers cheques are not only sold by Jordan's financial institution's but also by institutions from the United States to Kuwait, from Sudan, Egypt and Lebanon to Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Indeed there are over 100 sales locations in the world selling Petra Bank's travellers cheques.

Visa traveller cheques have a worldwide acceptance with over 60,000 refund locations operating twenty four hours a day.

Mr. George Abou Khalil, Petra Bank's travellers cheques manager stated that "despite having competition from Western traveller cheques issuers, Petra Bank has successfully captured a share of this specialised market. It is our policy to seek further growth in this payment system, which will not only bring direct financial benefits to Jordan but at the same time enhance the country's status as a provider of financial services."

Boesky case unsettles Wall Street

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks Tuesday suffered one of their biggest ever one-day losses in hectic trading unsettled by the probe into insider-trading by speculator Ivan Boesky.

The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 43.31 points to 1,817.21. Declines led advances 1,383 to 355 on heavy volume of 185,260,000 shares, down from 133,250,000 on Monday.

Traders said spectacular declines in several takeover issues caused broad weakness, igniting further selling in the influential stock index futures market.

"The market is in a state of shock as a result of the fear that Mr. Boesky's cooperation with the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) will lead a trail to other names on Wall Street," Mr. Alan Ackerman of Herzfeld and Stern said.

Published reports said Mr. Boesky had helped SEC investigators tape record and video tape conversations with senior investment industry figures who may be implicated in illegal trading based on secret information.

Mr. Boesky, one of the biggest speculators in takeover stocks, agreed last Friday to pay \$100 million in penalties to settle SEC charges against him.

"This will lead to a cleansing of the market and a return, after a

time, to a normal market, which means value orientations and recognition of earnings, instead of merger rumours," Mr. Ackerman said.

Mr. Donald Trotter, market strategist for Mabon Nugent, said the bull market had ended as a result of the trading scandal and confusion about the economy.

"We feel the air has been taken out of those stocks that had been takeover candidates," he said, noting that takeovers had led the market recently.

Confusion about economy, Mr. Trotter said, will send a lot of investors to the sidelines as well.

The market this week will receive some economic figures, including the release and of revised third quarter gross national product and personal income data.

Stop and Shop fell 5 1/2 to 91 1/2, and most active USX slipped 1/2 to 21 1/2, after a decline of 2 1/2 on Monday.

ATT was the third most actively traded issue, falling 3/4 to 24 3/4. The company gained 1/2 Monday when it announced a cut in long distance phone rates.

Computer stocks, which posted moderate gains early in the day, crashed that advanced at the closing bell. IBM, one of the stocks included in the programmes, fell 1 1/2 to 120 1/2, Digital Equipment

2 1/2 to 97 1/2, Honeywell 1 3/4 to 68 1/4 and Hewlett Packard one T 41 1/4.

The price of an average share price fell 93 cents. Prices on the American stock exchange closed lower in heavy trading and the amex index fell 3.47 to 261.23.

The Nasdaq over the counter index slid 4.45 points to 352.62.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange described as inexcusable the insider trading by Mr. Boesky.

Mr. John Phelan said the actions by Boesky did not mean the market needed tighter regulation. "It is inexcusable for a professional to do what he has done ... he put at risk all the freedoms in the market that have been gained in the last few years," he told reporters in Hong Kong. "There weren't any new rules needed to get Mr. (Ivan) Boesky," he said. "All you need to do is get the people to obey (existing rules)."

In London share prices on London's stock exchange were generally lower Wednesday.

The Financial Times stock exchange index of 100 leading companies was 10.5 points down on the day at 1,607.0.

The case of Boesky has also unsettled currency markets, dealers said.

Bahrain to buy S. Arabian wheat

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain will sharply reduce its purchases of Australian wheat, turning instead to supplies from neighbouring Saudi Arabia, a senior Bahrain official said Wednesday.

Sheikh Mohammad Bager Al Tajir, director of supply at the commerce and agriculture ministry, told Reuters the step had been taken on purely economic grounds and would considerably reduce freight and transport costs.

"With the completion of the causeway linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, (the kingdom's) silos in Dammam will become Bahrain's base for wheat needs," Sheikh Tajir said.

A spokesman for the Australian embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said his country had not

been officially notified of Bahrain's decision but he expressed disappointment.

Australia has been a regular supplier of wheat to Bahrain for many years, meeting more than half of the island state's annual imports of 40,000 to 45,000 tonnes.

The embassy spokesman said: "I am sure the Australian wheat board would be disappointed should Bahrain stop wheat imports from Australia."

Sheikh Tajir said Bahrain could quickly receive consignments of Saudi wheat across the \$1 billion, 25-kilometre causeway due to open next week.

Bahrain already has taken initial deliveries of 20,000 tonnes of Saudi wheat this year.

However, Bahrain will con-

tinue to import small amounts of Australian soft wheat to blend with the harder Saudi grain, Sheikh Tajir said.

The decision to depend more heavily on Saudi supplies was also taken within the framework of economic cooperation among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), he said.

The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia has achieved self-sufficiency in wheat. In July, the U.S. Agriculture Department said the kingdom could be a net exporter this year, increasing competition for U.S. wheat, especially in Middle East markets.

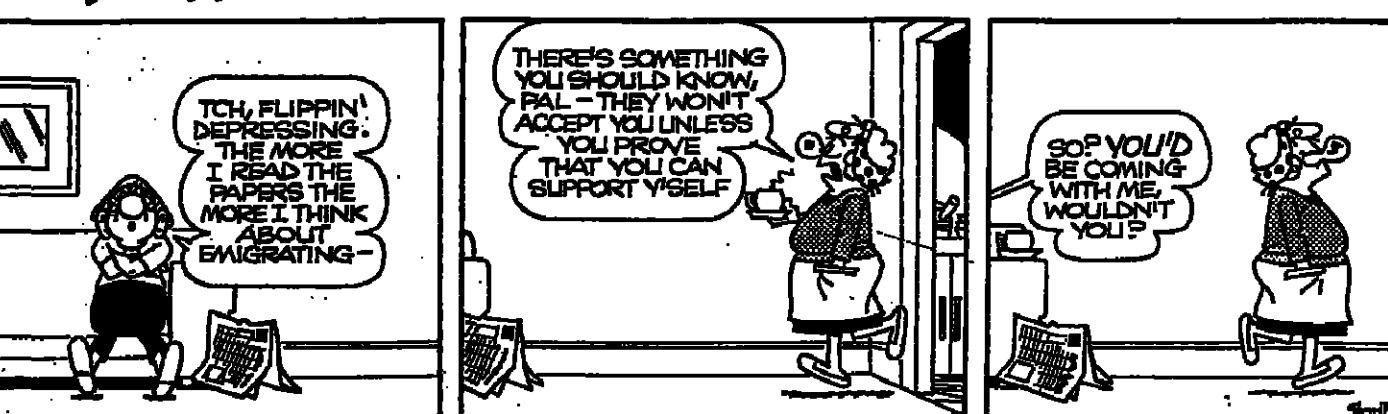
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



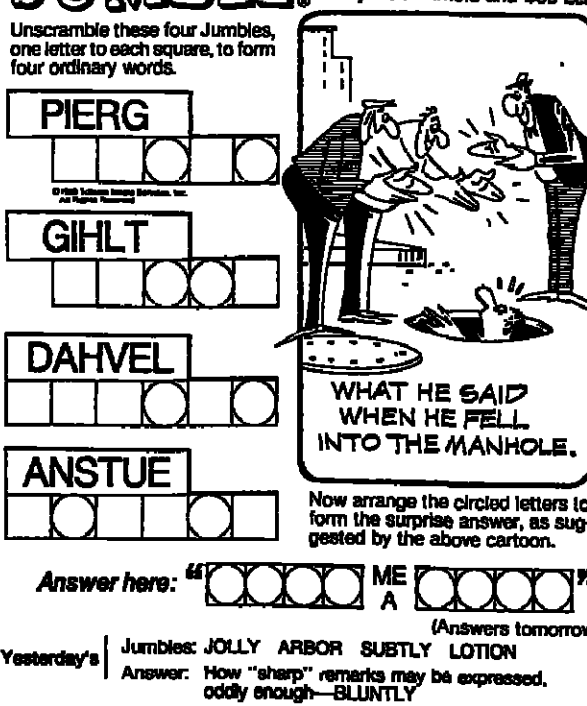
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.



Enrile ally killed; Aquino orders last-ditch peace effort

MANILA (Agencies) — A close, rightwing friend of Philippines Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was murdered Wednesday, sparking fears of an upsurge of political killings following last week's death of leftist labour leader Rolando Olalia.

It was not immediately clear if the killing of multi-millionaire David Puzon had any link to murder of Mr. Olalia, who had warned that his followers would take to the streets if military officers linked to Mr. Enrile attempted to overthrow President Corason Aquino.

Mr. Puzon, 64, his driver and his lawyer were killed as they drove on the MacArthur Highway just north of Manila.

Seven men fired high-powered rifles from a jeepney and Mr. Puzon was shot 10 times.

Mr. Puzon and Mr. Enrile worked closely through the years and the murdered man represented an Enrile stronghold in the now disbanded National Assembly for the party of ousted leader Ferdinand Marcos.

The Kalina-Apayao area now contains many Communist rebels and the state-owned Philippines News Agency quoted Mr.

Puzon's family as saying he had received a number of death threats from the insurgents who demanded a monthly extortion fee of 800,000 pesos (\$40,000).

Mr. Olalia will be buried Thursday after a funeral expected to be attended by thousands of mourners and demonstrators.

The procession is expected to take several hours to wind through Manila past the presidential palace and military headquarters.

Many Filipinos expect it to be the biggest "political" funeral since the burial of Benigno Aquino, the president's husband who was murdered in 1983.

The left has charged, without presenting any evidence, that Mr. Enrile or forces loyal to him had Mr. Olalia killed.

The murder led to a breakdown of ceasefire talks between the government and Communist rebels who have been at war for

17 years.

Mrs. Aquino Wednesday ordered her negotiators to reach a ceasefire by the end of the month.

Government negotiator Ramon Mitra had said Tuesday night he did not expect any ceasefire until next year.

But he told reporters Wednesday after the regular weekly cabinet meeting that he was told by the president "to produce a ceasefire within the month."

Asked what would happen if he failed, he said: "I don't know what plans she has and what are her reasons but the instructions are specific: Produce a ceasefire within the month."

Mrs. Aquino has hinted previously at an intensified fight if peace efforts fail.

Officials said two senior police officers were killed in the two other attacks, both in Pampanga province north of Manila.

The armed forces command blamed the Communist New People's Army for the Wednesday killings, terming them "examples of (rebel) atrocities against non-combatants and other persons in authority."

Moscow: West seeks to wreck road to arms pact

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Wednesday the United States and Western Europe had sought to wreck the chances of nuclear arms agreements since the superpower summit in Iceland last month.

In a sharply-worded commentary, Pravda said: "The weeks since Reykjavik have confirmed that there are powerful circles in the American and West European governments which strive to wreck the process of nuclear disarmament."

The article accused Bonn, London and Paris of opposing the establishment of a nuclear-free Europe by pledging to maintain nuclear weapons on their soil.

West Germany, with Chancellor Helmut Kohl to the fore, was one of the main organisers of resistance to reaching agreements, Pravda said.

"He (Kohl) quickly announced that nuclear disarmament would make a war in Europe 'possible and probable' again."

"The impression has been created that West German militarism, apparently, has not given up as a bad job its secret dream of finding some way or other of mastering a means of mass destruction," it added.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov attacked the ruling West German Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union parties Tuesday, saying their programme for the January elections created obstacles to peace.

Moscow blames the failure to reach major accords at the summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Washington's plans to develop its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) space defence programme.

It has accused the Americans of not offering concessions and letting talks since the summit become bogged down in details, preventing progress on arms control.

Liberal FDP seeks to stop Kohl landslide

BONN (R) — West Germany's Free Democrats (FDP) held their last pre-election congress on Friday looking for ways to stop a conservative landslide on Jan. 25 that could relegate them to opposition for the first time since 1969.

The Liberal FDP wish their conservative coalition partners well in the general election, but not so well that the next government might be formed without FDP support.

Political commentators expect the two-day congress in Mainz will assert the liberals' separate identity to remind voters that a moderate force is needed in Bonn to put legislative brakes on the right.

Because of a finely balanced political system, West Germany has elected just one single-party government in four decades. As a direct consequence, the FDP has long enjoyed a kingmaker's role in Bonn far outweighing its modest eight-per cent average share of the vote.

But with a popular tide sweeping Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservatives on to a possible overall majority, the liberals suddenly face the prospect of losing their cosy position.

An opinion poll published this week showed the main opposition Social Democratic (SPD) Party had slumped to just 35 per cent support, clearing the way for an outright majority by the conservatives, now preferred by 50 per cent of voters.

The poll forecast the FDP will win its usual eight per cent ahead of the environmental Greens with six per cent.

A result on these lines would leave the FDP, party of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, sharing the opposition benches with Social Democrats and Greens.

FDP General Secretary Helmut Haussmann has already written to party branches warning of the possibility of a clean sweep by Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian Christian Social (CSU) sister party.

The conservative daily Die Welt commented that the beacons had been lit and the stage set for a last-minute FDP stand on an issue of principle and a conveniently-timed "classic display of the liberal profile" in Mainz.

The issue, signposted in Haussmann's party letter, is a hot law-and-order controversy over coalition plans to grant immunity from prosecution to Red Army Faction (RAF) urban guerrillas who give themselves up and turn state's evidence.

The FDP last month said it would back a limited two-year amendment allowing so-called "crown witness" deals with criminal informers, which West German basic law normally prohibits, to help smash the terrorists.

Lava flows down from erupted Japanese volcano

TOKYO (AP) — Lava that has been building up in the crater of Mount Mihara since it erupted Saturday for the first time in 12 years overflowed the rim on Wednesday, the Central Meteorological Agency (CMA) said.

According to volcano experts who surveyed the mountain from a helicopter, the lava had flowed about 50 metres down the north western side of the mountain as of 11:00 a.m. local time (0200 GMT), CMA officials said.

The lava was not an immediate threat to island residents, agency officials said.

The CMA said "intense" volcanic activity continued in and around the volcano, which is located on the small island of Oshima, about 110 kilometres south of Tokyo.

The 758-metre (2,487-foot) volcano was hurling lava into the air as high as 500 metres, according to an announcement by the Oshima Observatory Office. It said column of black smoke from the eruption reached as high as 1,800 metres.

CMA spokesman Shigeru Takamatsu said a group of 23 experts on volcanic eruptions held an emergency meeting Tuesday to discuss volcanic activity on the island.

Ichiro Takai of the Disaster Prevention Department of the Tokyo metropolitan government said damage to crops on the island was estimated at 180 million yen (\$1.1 million).

U.N., OAS chiefs offer services to resolve C. American conflict

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The heads of the United Nations and Organisation of American States (OAS) jointly offered Tuesday a "peaceful arsenal" or services to resolve the Central American conflict.

The General Assembly passed by consensus a resolution calling for continuation of the efforts of the Contadora Group — made up of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama — to resolve the dispute between Nicaragua on one side and the United States and Nicaragua's neighbours on the other.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar of Peru and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares of Brazil met Tuesday with the U.N. envoys of the Contadora mediators and the

"Contadora support group" of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

They also met with envoys of the five Central American nations: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Alvaro Desoto, special assistant to Mr. Peres de Cuellar, told reporters after the meetings that it was the first time the two secretaries general have made a joint initiative.

He called it an "offer of services and peaceful arsenal of means which both organisations have at their disposal." He said the services included peacekeeping forces, monitors for border activities, military activities or elections, and coordination of economic or social aid.

"The menu which has been provided has been placed before them for their consideration," he said.

He said he expected the ambassadors to report the offer to their governments and respond later.

In the assembly debate on the Central American resolution, U.S. Senator Paul Trible said the contra rebels in Nicaragua "are trying to ride the wave of democracy sweeping the rest of Latin America." Sen. Trible is one of several members of Congress who, each year, serve on the U.S. delegation in the assembly.

Sen. Trible said the United States supports the effort of the Contadora countries to find a solution that will bring growth, democracy and tranquility to Central America.

Amnesty says prisoners tortured in Afghanistan

LONDON (R) — The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said in a report published Wednesday that Soviet officials are implicated in the torture of suspected government opponents in Afghanistan.

The report, entitled "Afghanistan - torture of political prisoners", said Amnesty collected accounts of physical abuse by Afghan authorities, including severe beatings and electric shocks, from former political prisoners in exile.

Amnesty said it had learnt that such practices had continued this year.

According to the ex-prisoners, Soviet personnel were present during torture sessions.

The report said the Kabul government had not responded to the allegations and an Afghan embassy official in London contacted by Reuters refused to comment.

The Amnesty report said: "There are consistent accounts of the complicity of Soviet personnel through their presence during interrogation under torture."

One prisoner quoted in the report said: "My interrogator was an Afghan but very often he was joined by an interpreter and a Soviet... I was never tortured by Soviets but I saw many Soviets in rooms where torture was taking place."

Another said: "I got electric shocks from a temporary torture machine made out of three vehicle batteries. They were connected to each other and from

them I had wires to my ears, toes and fingers. This electric shock tortures I got some 20 times and sometimes the Soviets gave orders for this torture."

Most reports of torture related to people held by the Khad state information service in two Kabul interrogation centres.

Amnesty said it had also received accounts from people tortured in Khad centres outside the capital as well as in prisons and military posts.

Some of those torture were involved in opposition groups and others were taken into custody after denunciation or because they were related to known opponents of the government, it said.

Others were held on lesser charges such as having opposition leaflets or trying to cross the border.

Government and police officials, teachers, students, businessmen, shopkeepers and private sector employees were among those reported to have been tortured and many of the victims were women, the report said.

It said prisoners reported being beaten for up to an hour every day. Many said they were deprived of sleep, made to stand for long periods, exposed to the sun or forced to stand in snow or water.

Prisoners received electric shocks to sensitive parts of their bodies, were burned with cigarettes and had their hair torn out, according to the report.

U.S. starts training contras

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — The first Nicaraguan contra rebels to receive training under a new \$100 million U.S. aid package have begun a combat course under American instructors, a rebel leader said Wednesday.

Roger Herman, political coordinator of the U.S.-backed Kisan Indian guerrilla army, said 44 rebels from three groups linked in the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) left two weeks ago for training at an undisclosed location.

Rebels earlier received U.S. training in 1982 but two years later Congress prohibited military aid for the contras.

Herman said U.S. officials would not disclose where the training would take place or which section of the armed forces or Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) would conduct it.

A Honduran military officer said the training was definitely not in Honduras.

Herman said the course, expected to last less than two months, would include first aid, radio communications, infantry training and use of explosives. Each participant would specialise in one aspect and would return to Honduras to train rebels in camps here, he said.

Pope tells Catholics to be loyal to Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Pope John Paul arrived in Bangladesh Wednesday at the start of a marathon six-nation tour and told its tiny Roman Catholic minority they must demonstrate their allegiance to the predominantly Muslim country.

The Pope went straight from the airport, after arriving on an overnight flight from Rome, to celebrate mass at a nearby stadium packed with around 50,000 people.

He said in his homily that the Catholic Church, whose members make up less than 0.2 per cent of the 100 million population, must "build up and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, freedom, harmony and justice throughout the entire national community."

He said Catholics, whose faith is often seen as a foreign religion here, must show Muslims and others that their Christianity "far from weakening your sense of pride in your homeland and your love for her, helps you to prize and respect the culture and heritage of Bangladesh."

The Pope said the Catholic Church was committed to dialogue and collaboration with people of good will in every religion.

He added: "Sometimes Christians and Muslims fear and distrust one another as a result of past misunderstanding and conflict. This is also true in Bangladesh. Everyone, especially the young, must learn always to respect one another's religious beliefs and defend freedom of religion."

Catholic sources in Bangladesh say the influence of Islamic fundamentalism in this country has caused some anti-Christian prejudice and discrimination.

The Pope appeared during his one-day visit here to be trying to

promote the local church's efforts to be absorbed into Bangladeshi culture.

The mass had a strongly local flavour with some of the service conducted in Bengali.

Despite its minority position local Catholic officials say their church is dynamic and thriving. Vatican sources said the Pope was deeply impressed by the fact that he was able to ordain 18 new priests at Wednesday's Mass.

But many of the inhabitants of this city of four million people seemed either indifferent or bemused by the papal visit. The Pontiff's route from the airport to the stadium was only sparsely lined by groups of curious onlookers.

Bangladesh is the first stop on a tour that will take the Pope to Singapore, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and the Seychelles. He leaves for Singapore Thursday.

Pope John Paul indicated Wednesday he would reject any invitation to Moscow unless the Soviet Union lifted a ban on him visiting Catholics in Lithuania.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to visit Italy early next year and there are reports that he would invite the Pope to the Soviet Union.

The Pope was asked by journalists on the plane carrying him to Bangladesh whether he had discussed a visit to the Soviet Union during a recent meeting with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Filaret of Kiev.

The Pope, who two years ago was refused permission to visit Lithuania, where there are two and half million Catholics, replied:

"I do not speak of a journey to Russia. For me it would be in line with my duty to make a journey to Lithuania."

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Gorbachev 'would be splendid conservative'

LONDON (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has an excellent brain and would be a splendid Conservative candidate for parliament "but for his political views," a cabinet minister has said. Gorbachev has "considerable charisma," a high IQ (intelligence quotient) and is "the sort of chap who would easily gain a first (top degree) at Oxford or Cambridge." Energy Secretary Peter Walker told a business conference. "If he was put before a Tory selection committee he would have no difficulty getting chosen, and he would make a very good and splendid candidate, but for his political views." He said Gorbachev was the first Soviet leader who knew how to communicate with the West and that he handles the news media very well.

Bangladesh starts war on rodents

DHAKA (R) — The Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh are echoing with firecracker blasts, the latest stage in a war waged by farmers on rodents and wild animals attacking crops. Agriculture officials said the farmers turned to firecrackers after devices like trumpets and loudspeakers failed to halt the advancing hordes. "We have just started the experiment and it's too early to predict a success. The surely we have gained some initial positive results," one official at Chittagong told Reuters. Officials have said rodents, pests, wild elephants and boars destroy 1.4 million tonnes of rice every year, about 10 per cent of the country's output. The government sweetened a pest-control drive launched in July by offering farmers 50 paise (about four U.S. cents) for each rat-tail delivered to agriculture offices and dangling prizes like radios before champion rat-killers. The tail-count has already crossed 600,000.

Mondrian painting sells for \$5.1m

NEW YORK (R) — A painting by the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian sold for \$5.1 million at a Sotheby's auction, more than doubling the artist's previous record of \$2.2 million. The painting was one of 67 Impressionist and Modern paintings sold for a total of \$42.4 million, a record for a single evening's sale for this type of art. Mondrian's painting, "Composition in a Square With Red Corner," was one of seven sold from the estate of James Sweeney, a former director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the New York Museum of Modern Art. Also included in the Sweeney Collection was "Femmes Dans La Nuit" by Spanish artist Joan Miro which sold for \$2.5 million, a record for the artist. The seven paintings from the Sweeney Collection sold for a total of \$12 million.

U.S. returns stolen art works to Italy

ROME (R) — The United States has ceremonially returned three Italian works of art stolen during the past four years and discovered in America. A Roman bust of Greek philosopher Socrates, an 11th century fresco and a second century marble bas-relief depicting the goddess Roma, were bought by U.S. citizens in Switzerland and Britain. After international publicity about the thefts, the buyers handed them over voluntarily to U.S. police. The three art works, worth about \$220,000, were stolen from a Roman amphitheatre in Pozzuoli near Naples, from the Villa Adriana at Tivoli just outside Rome and from a monument in Caserta, southern Italy.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

AND THE WINNER IS...
By Raymond Hamel

ACROSS
1. One of the
2. Gaudy weapon
3. "I Remember"
4. 14
5. Ugly mushroom
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